

SOUNDINGS

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY
MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
JANUARY 1995

January 1995 Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, January 26, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Wayne L. Perryman, Southwest Fisheries Science Center,
National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla

**Topic: Gray Whales, a success story:
How Many Are There and How Are They Counted?**

Our speaker will briefly describe the migratory behavior of gray whales and provide us with background information on their history, exploitation, and subsequent recovery. His talk will conclude with the delisting and removal of the whales from the Endangered Species List (they remain protected under the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act). He will provide new insights into the population biology of this highly mobile species which is at the peak of its migration through our area during January.

His special interest is the application of new technologies and statistical methods to refine our knowledge of marine mammal populations. He has used aerial photogrammetry to record school size in large dolphin aggregations, as well as, pod and individual whale size among baleen whales. Is it true that pregnant females can be distinguished from the others?

The use of military style night vision equipment provides answers to the question regarding the extent of nocturnal passage. Aerial photography, when combined with shore observation, provides a ground-truthing to supply any correction factors needed.



Wayne Perryman is a former NOAA Corps Officer and has been for many years with the marine mammal research group at SWFSC. His field work has taken him from the Eastern Tropical Pacific to the Arctic. He is in our area to carry out an experimental census of gray whale groups at the Granite Canyon Laboratory of the California Department of Fish and Game north of Bixby Creek in Big Sur.

Please join us for a stimulating evening.

Professor Dan Costa, UCSC, will present a brief update on recent results from the MMRPs (Marine Mammal Research Program) segment of the Acoustic Thermometry of Ocean Climate (ATOC) project in the vicinity of Point sur ridge at our January meeting.

President's Note

...by Jo Guerrero

I write this note as we enter another exciting gray whale watching season in Monterey Bay. The annual migration of these fascinating cetaceans along our coastline is hard to miss, particularly now that they number an estimated 23,000 individuals. In the February newsletter you'll read about the gray whale classroom programs and whale watch trips our chapter is once again providing for several Alisal School District classes, thanks to another grant from the AT&T Pro-Am Youth fund. In our upcoming newsletters and monthly meetings, you'll also learn more about ATOC and many other marine conservation issues of local and national concern. We have a full plate for 1995.

With the new year, we have added three new names to our list of chapter board members. We look forward to the energy and expertise to be contributed by Monterey charter boat skipper Richard Ternullo, Dept. of Fish and Game marine biologist Carrie Wilson and San Jose State student Kathy Whittaker in their new roles as Vice-President, Newsletter Editor and Membership Secretary, respectively.

At the same time, we bid a fond farewell to former vice-president Libby Osnes-Erie, newsletter editor Chuck Haugen and membership secretary Marilyn Georgevich. Libby donated much time and energy to our chapter last year, and (despite being in the throes of completing her Master's degree on common dolphins) continues to coordinate our Alisal School programs during this gray whale season. Chuck has just retired from Fish and Game after a final year which included not just his "real" job, but countless volunteer hours as editor for our exemplary *Soundings* newsletter. Marilyn Georgevich retires after more than a decade of ACS service in a variety of capacities; she has been one of our chapter's most stalwart volunteers. I extend my sincere thanks to board members "old" and new.

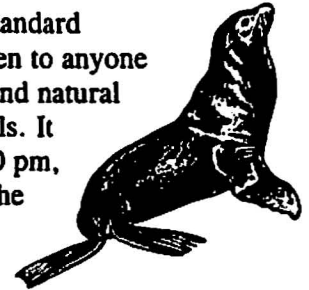
Lastly, our board owes a special thanks to our many chapter members. YOU make possible ACS Monterey Bay's many marine mammal research, education and conservation activities.

Welcome to new Chapter members...

Edward and Nancy Horton of Monterey
William and Emmy Reese of Pacific Grove
Tammy Steinwinder of San Jose

Open Training - Identification and Natural History of Local Marine Mammals

For the first time, part of the standard Beachwatch training will be open to anyone interested in the identification and natural history of local marine mammals. It will be held January 19, at 7:00 pm, at Hopkins Marine Station, in the Boatworks. Beachwatch coordinators will point out distinctive features, facts and anecdotes that have helped them monitor animals on the beach for 12 years. The program will last approximately 2 hours and is required for new Beachwatch volunteers.



Beachwatch trainees will meet for the second session on Saturday morning, January 21. Both sessions are required for new Beachwatch volunteers. Anyone interested in joining Beachwatch should contact Esta Lee Albright (375-1658) before January 19 for an orientation interview.

The open program on January 19 also will serve volunteers in the new Beach Walk project. Beach walks are made once a month or more often on a chosen beach. This project supports disaster preparedness and data collection for a database of central coast beaches. Volunteers are needed as the project begins soon to work in cooperation with other local groups. Call Esta Lee Albright at 375-1658 for more information.

Environmental/Conservation Prospects in the 104th Congress:

...by Barbara Britten

The ceremonial opening of the 104th congress heralds one of the most profound political upheavals and transformations in recent times. Washington's entire power structure has been shocked and shaken up; it is trying to fathom the government-wide ramifications of the House Republicans' "Contract with America." The probable changes in Congress's basic institutional and structural frameworks are without historical precedent. Furthermore, the philosophy of governance, especially among most of the 83 new members in the 435-seat House is radically different than from most of their freshman predecessors in the last 30 or 40 years.

Some of the structural reforms are beneficial and long overdue. These include: 1) imposing a 6-year (3-term) limit on the tenure of committee chairpersons; 2) restricting the number of committees and subcommittees on which a member may serve; and 3) abolishing the use of proxies in voting on committee and subcommittee legislative decisions.

In the process of committing to a reduction in the number of committees and cutting large numbers of Congressional staff, one committee, of major importance to the fate of environmental and conservation legislation, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee (MM&F) has been abolished. Its functions will be subsumed under the newly renamed Public Lands and Resources Committee. Its new chair will be Rep. Don Young of Alaska, characterized by the Washington "Post" as a "certified Alaska 'boomer.'" However, who will be the ranking minority member is still up in the air, as is the question of who will chair the Wildlife Subcommittee. Rep. Gerry Studds (D, MA), former chair of MM&F and Rep. George Miller (D, CA), who chaired the former Natural Resources Committee, are vying for these posts.

In recent weeks, headlines on stories in the two Washington newspapers, the "Post" and the "Times," on the legislative prospects embodied in the property rights section of the "Contract" have read: "GOP Plan to Broaden Property Rights Could Cost Public Dearly," "Property Rights Cause Spooking the Greens," and "Green Sweep: The Republican Contract Would Do Nothing Less Than Dismantle Environmental Laws." Although the Contract does not mention the environment by name, the property rights issue and the proposed drastic and sweeping curtailment in the entire regulatory process are clearly targeting the major environmental legislation scheduled for reauthorization in the 104th Congress. The primary target is the Endangered Species Act, already under assault during the last Congress. Some of the new members from California and other western states specifically advocated repeal of the ESA in their campaigns. The innocent-sounding proposed Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act is the vehicle in which the property rights issue and the "takings" clause of the Constitution's 5th Amendment will be challenged.

If the new Congress were to operate in the same relaxed fashion that it has in the past, there would not be such consternation about some of the new draconian initiatives. The 100-day time frame for House floor action on all the Contract's many

provisions makes it imperative that environmental/conservation organizations be geared up for quick grassroots action. Fortunately, the more measured pace and different rules that prevail in the Senate provide at least some cushion of time, but not enough to allow for any complacency because rough times, many battles and hard work lie ahead.

Friendly Humpbacks on Monterey Bay

...by *Richard Ternullo*

Most people are aware of the "friendly" gray whales of the Mexican calving lagoons, and I'm sure there is a portion of the chapter who have witnessed this behavior first hand. The opportunity to see any of the great whales at close range is truly an experience to be treasured for a lifetime. Gray whales are not the only whale that seems to engage in this activity. Humpback whales have been known to closely approach, or even rub on, observation vessels on Monterey Bay in past years. However, this year seems to have had more than its share. There were eleven events recorded this year, and one with a blue whale.

Even the most experienced researchers or observers have been impressed by these encounters. Alan Baldrige observed one humpback which seemed to direct displays toward one particular passenger. This person was physically challenged and confined to a wheelchair. Could this whale perceive the difference from the other little inhabitants of this noisy floating object? Makes a person think all kinds of unscientific thoughts! Another person who insists that she avoids people that tend to "ooh ooh!!", has been heard saying things like: "over here!, Woo!, did ja see that!! You have to be there ducking spray from flukes or inhaling the incredibly foul blow (smells a lot like bad Brussels sprouts to me) to really wonder what you were thinking when you were running from one end of the boat to the other trying to get some really neat pictures.



Anyone lucky enough to have one of these encounters seems to have an experience difficult to describe.

Most encounters seem random and distributed throughout the Bay. My first indication that something may happen is that I can detect the whale below the boat on the echo sounder. Sometimes they may dive as deep as 2-400 feet, then rise until they are seen next to the boat. All encounters seem to occur when the boat is stopped and the engines are in neutral while waiting for the whale(s) to surface. All approaches are entirely the actions of the whales. These episodes have continued for as long as 2.5 hours, and have involved as many as three individuals. Behaviors have ranged from relatively slow circling to frisky tail waves and swishes. One whale repeatedly breached next to one vessel. We are attempting to determine if the same individuals are involved in this behavior.

Gray Whales: A Conservation Success Story

...by Alan Baldrige

Introduction: Each year as Christmas approaches, so do the gray whales, as they execute their remarkably predictable, uniquely nearshore, migration south. The whales depart the Bering and Chukchi Seas in late October to begin the approximately 10,000 mile round trip to the Baja California lagoons. Following an early sighting or two in mid-November, numbers pick up substantially at Christmas and peak in this area anywhere from January 3-17, when for a few days, 200 or more per day pass by in the narrow corridor through which 90% of all grays travel. South of Point Lobos and Soberanes Point, most whales are no more than a mile offshore. When crossing open bays such as Monterey Bay, they are around 14 miles west of Moss Landing, closing in at Cypress Point and crossing outer Carmel Bay towards Point Lobos. Later whales (usually sub-adults) may meander into Monterey or Carmel bays.

Southward Migration: This may be characterized as a "fasting migration" in which the whales move from the cold, rich feeding grounds of the shallow portions of the Bering and Chukchi Seas off the coasts of Alaska and Russian Siberia to warm, sheltered lagoon systems of the Pacific coast of Baja California. Here calves are born, nurtured and breeding takes place. The migration takes the form of a parade with pregnant females traveling alone in November ahead of the rest. They are followed by non-pregnant females and the adult males with which

they will court and mate. Subadults make up the remainder after the January peak. The migration continues through mid-February.

Pod size is commonly 1-4 whales but larger groups of 12-15 occur during the peak. The whales travel at 4-5 miles per hour continuously day and night without apparent rest, covering approximately 100 miles per day. Their surfacing, breathing and diving rhythms are maintained indefinitely, unless they are disturbed or changing directions. In this area, whales usually surface 3-5 times at 10-20 second intervals from shallower dives in which they travel just beneath the surface. This is followed by "fluking" and a deeper dive of 3-7 minutes to perhaps 150 ft. as the whale travels 1/4 to 1/3 of a mile.

Among behaviors observed here, spectacular breaching is quite frequent, especially off headlands such as Cypress Point and Point Lobos. Courtship and mating behavior is observed but may involve the subadult animals trailing the adults. Courting groups often consist of trios. As the grays cross the deep waters of the canyons, they may encounter and be escorted, perhaps harassed, by Risso's and Pacific white-sided dolphins and Dall's porpoise which often ride their "bow" waves. California sea lions are often attracted to them.

Not all births take place in the Mexican lagoons. Our first sighting of a newborn calf was here in 1973. Each year some 3-6 mother/calf pairs are seen during the southbound migration. Perhaps they are first-time mothers unable to reach Baja in time. These calves are thought to survive, for the most part.

Navigation: The mode of navigation is not completely understood. Migration is probably initiated by declining daylight in the Arctic, the southward spread of the pack ice over the feeding grounds, and their internal biological clocks. The orientation and navigational cues utilized may be a mixture, such as using low-frequency sounds that reverberate from the bottom, allowing the whales to follow the 30-40 fathom curve, listening for sounds associated with nearshore areas such as breaking waves, kelp bed fishes and snapping shrimp. Vision would seem to be of only limited value as so much of the migration covers areas of notoriously poor visibility.

The likelihood of cetaceans utilizing the "map" created by the earth's magnetic field is a new but untested hypothesis.



Baja Lagoons: The huge sheltered lagoons of the Pacific coast of Baja are crowded with whales from January to March. Females give birth in January and remain in the inner reaches of the lagoons until the males and other whales depart. At this time mother/calf pairs concentrate at the lagoon entrances where the calves play and build up endurance in this turbulent region. Mating groups usually involving two or more males, may disturb the calm of the lagoon waters, as do the frequently breaching individuals. Curious whales approach the skiffs and especially the inflatables carrying eager whale-watchers. Many seek to touch or be touched. For most of the visitors, such intimate encounters with the whales are the highlight of a visit to the lagoons. The lagoons are where the whales, adult and young, pick up their heavy burden of ectoparasites (barnacles and whale "lice").

Return Migration: In our area the first northbound grays are apparent by mid-February, and indeed, for a week or more, whales are passing one another in opposite directions. First to travel north are newly impregnated females, followed by adult males. Next come the mass of immature animals, finally followed (from mid-April through May) by the cow/calf pairs swimming slowly at the edge of kelp beds and near shore. The northward peak here is usually around March 3-10. Feeding behavior, always rare and notable here, is occasionally observed in March of April.

Mortality: Many newborn calves succumb in the lagoons of Mexico, where carcasses are commonly found. Yearlings and two-year olds may die on the northward migration, probably from starvation and poor condition as they proceed north on the long return journey to the main feeding areas. The migration is energetically costly and is fueled by fat reserves laid down in the 24-hours-per-day feeding on the summer grounds.

Gray whales at all times, except within the lagoons, run the risk of being attacked by killer whales (orcas). In this region most attacks occur in January and (especially) April-May when mother/calf pairs are being targeted. By staying close to the kelp beds or breakers, the cow/calf pairs are best able to avoid predation. Spring attacks in the last two years have focused on mother/calf pairs taking the shortcut across Monterey Bay. The orcas, in a concerted attack and after a prolonged struggle, were able to separate the calves from their mothers and kill them, in some cases apparently by drowning. Elsewhere a small number are killed by fishing gear and ship collisions.

Summer Feeding: Gray whales gather in large, scattered aggregations over the rich feeding grounds of the Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea. Here they dive to the silt-covered seafloor, in which they excavate, by suction, large shallow depressions, filtering out the mass of shrimp-like amphipods, their preferred food. They are unique among baleen whales in this mode of benthic (bottom) foraging. Here they replenish the expended fat resources, which will become fuel for the upcoming migration. Females wean their calves by August. Not all journey to the far north. Some spend the summer off west Vancouver Island, the central Oregon coast, Humboldt/Del Norte counties in California, and at the Farallon Islands. The Arctic feeding grounds bring them within range of subsistence whalers. Siberian natives (Russian) take around 175 animals and Alaskan Eskimos, who prefer the larger but more docile, barnacle-free bowhead, take very few.

Conservation: The northern subsistence hunting is regulated by the International Whaling Commission. They are also protected by U.S. law under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and are being de-listed under the Endangered species Act. Gray whales continue to increase at 3.5 % per year and have reached the estimated population existing prior to the start of commercial whaling in the mid-nineteenth century.

Brief Facts:

length at maturity -- 35-50 ft.
gestation -- 13 months
weaning -- 7 months
frequency of births -- most females every two years; some every third
life expectancy -- 30-40 years
world population -- 21,000+

Bay Whale Watching

From Shore: Pacific Grove shoreline at Otter Point and Point Pinos;. Seventeen Mile Drive at Point Joe and Cypress Point; Point Lobos and numerous Big Sur highway overlooks to the south.

By Boat: From Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey; Monterey Sport Fishing; Sam's Fishing Fleet; Randy's Fishing Trips; Chris' Fishing Trips.

Naturalist-led Trips: Shearwater Journeys (408-688-1990), year-round for marine mammals and sea birds; American Cetacean Society (Monterey Bay chapter); Oceanic Society Expeditions (San Francisco, year-round; and Half Moon Bay trips during gray whale season). *Reprinted courtesy of the Point Lobos Natural History Association.*

Killer Whales Foraging on the Monterey Bay

...by *Richard L. Ternullo, Nancy A. Black and Carol A. Keiper*

As top predators, killer whales in Monterey Bay have been observed killing and consuming a variety of prey: gray whales, Dall's porpoises, California sea lions, harbor seals, and northern elephant seals. Until recently, observations have consisted of killer whales encountering a single prey species. While on an Oceanic Society Expeditions research cruise August 16-17, 1994, killer whales were observed within 200 meters of several potential prey items. During a five hour period, killer whales encountered a humpback whale, Dall's porpoises, Pacific white-sided dolphins, and California sea lions. These encounters included both nonpredatory and predatory interactions.

On August 16, we observed five orcas traveling southeastward at 36°39.64' N and 122°03.66' W, about 3.5 nm SW of Pt. Pinos. Seas were calm and sea state was beaufort 2. The group consisted of one adult male, CA41, and four female-types, CA44, CA45, CA46, and CA57. Soon after the initial sighting, a group of about 10 Pacific white-sided dolphins were seen (> 500m from the killer whales) and no visible reaction by the whales to the dolphins was observed. Another group of about 10 Pacific white-sided dolphins rapidly traveled northeastward when approached to within 2-300m by the whales. Just as we sighted the orcas, a humpback whale breached 52 times about 2-3 km away without any noticeable effect on the killer whale's behavior. The orcas then passed a California sea lion by a few meters, which fled rapidly in the opposite direction. Soon after, a group of 250+ widely scattered Pacific white-sided dolphins were observed inshore of the killer whales. As the killer whales approached within 200 m, the dolphins formed a line abreast about 500m wide, and swam so fast that a visible line of white water was produced until they were about 2 km to the east. Despite the dolphins' flight response, the killer whales continued to swim at the same speed and in the same direction. Minutes later the killer whales encountered two groups of Dall's porpoises moving away from the whales at high speed toward Carmel Bay, and another California sea lion. We detected no apparent behavior changes in the killer whales during these encounters. (In a very interesting behavior, the

sea lion ate a fish as the killer whales passed). At 1445 we left the killer whales as they were about to intersect another group (250+) of Pacific white-sided dolphins. After we left, other observers noted that this dolphin group also fled at high speed.

The next day, August 17, we encountered a group of killer whales very close to the initial sighting from the day before at 36°40.78'N and 122°02.92'W, close to the previous days' position. This was the same group as the day before (the male, CA41, and the adult female, CA44, were easily identified). The group was heading northwest and encountered one California sea lion and six Dall's porpoises, however, the killer whales continued northwest with no visible response to the potential prey.

At 1030 one of the killer whales dove and left a very prominent fluke print. This was followed by rapidly swimming killer whales. An area of white water (a rooster-tail characteristic of a Dall's porpoise) and finally a blood stain appeared at the surface, then soon dissipated. The carcass was seen at the surface only once after the killer whales began diving repeatedly in the same location. Shortly after the kill, four additional killer whales (two mother/calf pairs) joined the original group. They were two females, CA50, an unidentified female, and two un-numbered calves. One of these calves (7.5'-8'), based on length compared to its presumed mother, was probably less than two months old. It also had an orange eye-patch. The second calf was possibly six months old. These ages are approximations based on a paper by Heimlich-Boran, 1986*. All group members appeared to feed on the carcass except the male who moved off about 1 km.

This represents the third observed predatory interaction on Dall's porpoise in Monterey Bay. There are several parallels between all three attacks. The detection distance of their prey seems to be less than 300m. In all cases the chase was short, not seeming to last more than 10 seconds from the time an observer became aware something was happening to the time a kill was noted. The involvement of the male whales was minimal, and in one attack no male was observed. In all observations there was no evidence of an oil slick at the surface of the water. When killer whales have consumed other prey items in this area, such as California sea lions or gray whales, a distinctive oil slick developed that attracted seabirds, particularly tube-noses (i.e. storm-petrels, shearwaters, and albatross), although some scavenging gulls were seen

picking at small surface particles. Three hydrophone recordings were attempted during this encounter with no vocalizations detected. In all instances hydrophone recordings were attempted, and with the exception of one whistle(?) on Sept. 6, 1993, the whales were silent. Stealth appears to be a major component of killer whale hunting strategy, at least for Dall's porpoise, in Monterey Bay.

Killer whales in Monterey Bay are associated with areas of high relief (Ternullo, et al., unpub. data). Dall's porpoise frequent similar bathymetry. Dall's porpoise, one of the most frequently observed small odontocetes, may represent a major food source for some transient-type killer whales found in Monterey Bay.

*Heimlich-Boran, James R., 1986. Photogrammetric Analysis of Growth in Puget Sound *Orcinus Orca*. In the Behavioral Biology of Killer Whales, Barbara C. Kierkevold and Joan S. Lockhard eds., pp 97-111.

New Flyer Identifies Marine Mammals

AcS Board members voted in November to fund the printing of a new flyer, "Marine Mammals on the Beach," by Esta Lee Albright and Milos Radakovich for use by Beachwatch and the general public. It gives people directions on how to recognize and help marine mammals they find on beaches.

This field guide is a two-sided 8.5" x 17" flyer combining brief points for identification of local mammals with important guidance for observing and reporting mammals needing assistance. The dominant instruction is: STAY AWAY. The flyer gives reasons and motivates respect for a beached animal. The writers work with the hope that realizing a marine mammal's habits and problems also contributes to its protection from the public, and vice-versa.

Beachwatch volunteers will have the flyers after the January 19/21 training. Flyers will be distributed to local groups and waterfront businesses.

Marine Mammal Sightings: October 26-December 25, 1994

...compiled by Richard Ternullo

With the conclusion of summer and fall birding, whalewatching trips, and the arrival of early winter storms, sightings have been reduced. These storms seem to have produced conditions that favor slightly cooler sea surface temperatures than during the past two winters. Temperatures are in the 51-53 F° (10-11 C°) range.

Gray whales were not seen regularly as of 11/27, but should rapidly build to levels allowing rewarding viewing by Christmas. About the time most people receive this newsletter, the peak of the southbound migration should be passing Monterey. Viewing from boats or from land should be the best during the week of January 15th.

The most unusual fish recorded was a star-studded grouper caught aboard the F/V Pt. Sur Clipper. This represents the second record for central California (the first was by W. Williamson on 1/25/93). These represent the most northerly records for this species.

Date	Group Size	Location	Observer
Blue whale			
11/3	2	9 mi. S Santa Cruz	MBW
Humpback whale			
10/26	1	3 mi. SW Cypress Point	OSE
10/29	1	8 mi. S Santa Cruz	SVS

Date	Group Size	Location	Observer
10/29	2	4.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	TJ
11/11	3	2.5 mi. W Soberanes Rocks	JW
11/14	2	1.5 mi. NW Point Lobos	RT
Associated with 15-20 Risso's dolphins.			
11/14	2	1.5 mi. NW Point Lobos	RT
11/19	1	15 mi. SW Point Sur	ATOC
11/19	2	18.5 mi. SW Point Sur	ATOC
11/19	2	20 mi. WSW Point Sur	ATOC
11/19	2	20.5 mi. WSW Point Sur	ATOC
11/20	2	10.5 mi. SW Point Lobos	ATOC
11/27	2	2 mi. W Soberanes Rock	HN
Killer whale			
12/11	1	1.5 mi. W Point Lobos	HN
Baird's beaked whale			
10/18	8	9.5 mi. SW Cypress Point	ATOC
Minke whale			
10/30	2	near Point Lobos	BL
11/20	1	2 mi. NW Cypress Point	ATOC
Sperm whale			
12/9	30	25-40 mi. W Point Pinos	ATOC*
All observed traveling singly or in pairs and heading NW. No males sighted.			
Pacific white-sided dolphin			
10/26	200	9 mi. SW Santa Cruz	OSE
10/26	300	8 mi. NW Point Pinos	OSE
10/26	75	1 mi. NW Point Pinos	OSE

Date	Group Size	Location	Observer
10/27	12	10.5 mi. WSW Point Pinos	OSE
11/14	12-15	7.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	WW
11/14	20	1 mi. SW Cypress Point	?
12/17	4-5	3.5 mi. W Point Pinos	MBW

Risso's dolphin

10/18	12	8.5 mi. SW Point Sur	ATOC
10/19	27	2 mi. SW Point Lobos	ATOC
10/27	5	3.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	OSE
10/30	40-50	8 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT

Associated with 10 northern right whale dolphins.

11/3	15-20	3 mi. W Point Joe	MBW
11/13	15-20	off Point Lobos	DG
11/15	15-20	off Cannery Row	HN
11/20	20+	Carmel Bay	BL

With some Pacific white-sided dolphins.

11/27	250	2.5 mi. SW Cypress Point	HN
		Associated with 5-6 northern right whale dolphins.	
12/1	200	7.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	WW
12/11	10-12	2.5 mi. W Cypress Point	SHJ
12/19	15-20	1.5 mi. S Cypress Point	RT

Northern right whale dolphin

11/19	16	19.5 mi. SW Point Sur	ATOC
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With 3 Pacific white-sided dolphins.

11/20	23	3 mi. W Point Joe	ATOC
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Along with 50 Risso's dolphins.

11/20	40	11 mi. SW Point Lobos	ATOC
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Associated with 90 Risso's dolphins.

Common dolphin species

There were twenty-two sightings of this dolphin during the reporting period. Numbers have been as high as 3-5000 individuals. They were sighted almost everywhere in the Bay and along the coast to Point Sur.

Long-beaked common dolphin

10/26	400	8 mi. WSW Santa Cruz	OSE
10/27	12	2.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	OSE
11/3	200	3.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	MBW
11/3	1100	3.5 mi. W Point Joe	MBW
11/7	5-60	1.5 mi. N Lover's Point	RT
11/7	3-500	7 mi. S Santa Cruz	JW
11/19	46	10 mi. SW Cypress Point	ATOC

Dall's porpoise

There were sixteen observations of up to fifteen individuals on or near canyon edges.

Northern elephant seal

There were nine sightings of this seal, all on outer Bay waters, from 4.5 to 18 miles from shore. A tenth sighting was by C. Martinez on 12/22 of an individual hauled out on the rocks near Breakwater Cove.

Northern fur seal

10/18	1	3 mi. W Point Joe	ATOC
10/18	1	16.5 mi. W Point Sur	ATOC
10/19	1+1	5 mi. W Yankee Point	ATOC

Date	Group Size	Location	Observer
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Steller sea lion

9/25	1	3 mi. WSW Point Pinos	AB
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California sea lion

About 500-600 are hauled out on the Monterey breakwater.

Harbor Seal

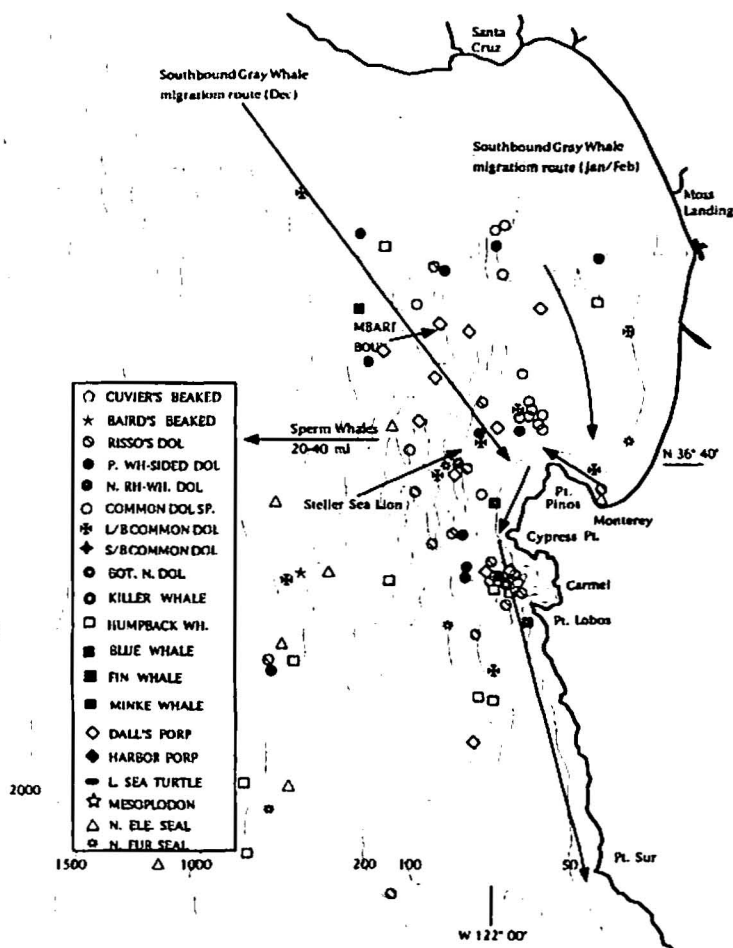
Found along rocky shores from Monterey harbor to Point Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.

Southern (California) sea otter

Found almost anywhere along the outer coast, kelp beds, harbors, Elkhorn Slough, and along the sandy shores within the Bay.

Key to observers:

AB=A. Baldridge, ATOC=ATOC Surface Survey, ATOC*=ATOC Aerial Survey, DG=D. Gibblin, GG=G. Goulart, HN=H. Neece, BL=B. Lucas, OSE=Oceanic Society Expeditions, DR=D. Rookiard, SHJ=Shearwater Journeys, RT=R. Ternullo, SVS=S. Van Sommeran, JB=J. Williamson and WW=W. Williamson.



Coming Events...

Robert Webb, curator of the Marine Maritime Museum in Bath, Maine, will give a lecture and slide presentation on Sperm Whaling on the California Coast at the Point Lobos Natural History Association annual meeting on Saturday, January 21, 1995. In addition, he is also an accomplished musician and singer and will give a performance of shipboard work songs called "shanties". All ACS members are invited, admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Saturday, January 21 at 10:00 AM
Monterey Institute of Int'l Studies
Irvine Auditorium/McCone Building
Jefferson and Pierce Streets
Monterey

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<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign	\$45
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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY
MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
FEBRUARY 1995

February 1995 Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, February 23, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Donald A. Croll, Research Scientist, University of California, Santa Cruz

Topic: Polar paradoxes and paradigms:

**diving behavior and energetics in polar seabirds and marine mammals,
from chinstrap penguins and Antarctic fur seals to thick-billed murres in
the Canadian Arctic**

There has been a revolution in our understanding of the diving biology of marine mammals and seabirds in the last two decades. Much of this new understanding has taken place in the Antarctic where a large infusion of research funds from U.S. and foreign government agencies has enabled scientists to take advantage of the relatively tame and/or flightless and easy to handle pinnipeds and penguins of this region. In addition, the remarkable developments in the miniaturization of sophisticated instrumentation has allowed the work to be expanded to seabirds.

Our speaker will provide us with the history of these developments and their applications, as well as the difficulties of the work itself in these remote and often beautiful regions.



Chinstrap Penguins



Antarctic Fur Seals

Don Croll obtained his M.S. degree at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories with work on common murres in Monterey Bay. He then moved on to his Ph.D. under diving physiology maestro Professor Gerry Kooyman at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. There he worked on the thick-billed murre in the Canadian High Arctic. This association led to Antarctic work on the feisty Antarctic fur seals and chinstrap penguins. This was followed by two years as Director of Marine Mammal Research for the School for Field Studies in La Paz, Baja California. He is now Research Biologist at Long Marine Laboratory, UCSC continuing his work on diving behavior of large cetaceans and conservation biology of seabirds.

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Emerging Patterns in Congress

...by **Barbara Britten**

Even though the 104th Congress is in its early stages, a measure of things to come can be found in the makeup of the once-again renamed Resources Committee dealing with major environmental issues. Chaired by Alaska's Don Young, its shape is beginning to emerge. The California members of the committee and its subcommittees are listed below.

House Committee on Resources:

Majority: Republicans (25 total)

Don Young, AK (10)

Elton Gallegly, 23rd Dist. (20)**

John Doolittle, 4th Dist. (15)**

Ken Calvert, 4th Dist. (30)

Richard Pombo, 11th Dist. (30)

George Radanovich, 19th Dist. (elected '94)

Minority: Democrats (20 total)

George Miller, 7th dist. (90) RM full comm.

Gerry Studds, MA. (90)* RM Fisheries subc.

Calvin Dooley, 20th Dist. (90)

Sam Farr, 17th Dist. (89) *

Key: * = Subcommittee: *Fisheries, Wildlife & Oceans*; ** = Subcommittee: *National Parks, Forests & Lands*; () = Leagues of Conservation Voters rating on 15 environmental votes in 103rd Congress, scale of 1 to 100. Names of subcommittees are underlined, RM = Ranking Member, senior minority seat on committees and subcommittees.

Rep. Calvert chairs the *Energy and Mineral Resources* Subcommittee, with Democrat Dooley the only other Californian. The *Water & Power Resources* Subcommittee is chaired by John Doolittle and also includes Reps. Pombo and Radanovich; Reps. Miller, Dooley and Farr are on the Democratic side. Elton Gallegly chairs the subcommittee on *Native American & Insular Affairs*, with no other Californian on it. Chairman Young named two Californians to steer a couple of important conservation/environmental legislative efforts. The Task Force charged with rewriting the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is chaired by Richard Pombo. A rancher from the rich agricultural area around Stockton, he is an outspoken opponent of the ESA as now enacted and which is up for reauthorization for the third year in a row. Rep. Doolittle will oversee water and power issues. he is a strong advocate for large dam and flood control projects.

In a five-page interview appearing in the journal of the Bureau of National Affairs, Mr. Young outlined his legislative priorities and gave vent to his animosity toward Washington-based environmental organizations. His three top priorities are: revision of the ESA; wetlands legislation; and, the favorite subject of the "wise use" movement and many of the conservatives in Congress, "private property rights." Young also stated that, because of his

animus toward the Washington environmental groups, there would be no ESA hearings in Washington. There will be field hearings, but he did not indicate when, where or how many are planned. He did say he would like to get the bill out of committee in six months.

Asked how much access environmental groups will have to him, he replied: "Environmental groups that are from the community will have great access. The environmental community that lives on the hill and has preyed off the environmental movement in the last 25 years will have very little access. I have worked with them and never seen them keep their word All they've ever supported is taking what belongs to a private individual under the guise of the environment."

While Young's language may be more intemperate than some of his colleagues might use, he expresses what appears to be the attitude of a large majority in the 104th Congress. It is reflected in the voting record of the small sample dealt with in this report.

(Barbara Britten has worked as a conservation lobbyist/consultant for many years in Washington D.C. and is now living in Davis, California. She is now providing this up-to-date conservation news on a monthly basis for ACS Monterey Bay).

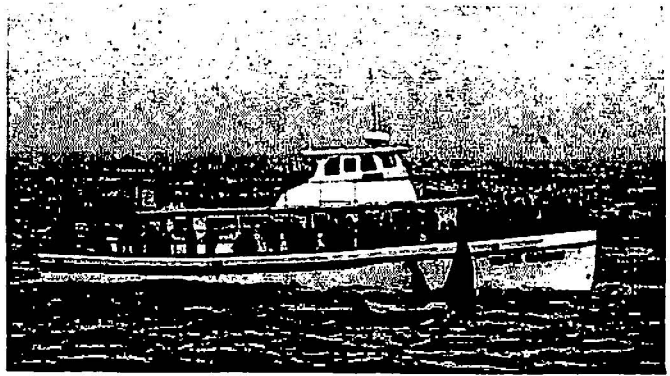
Unforgettable Experience

...by Libby Osnes-Erie

For the second year in a row about 250 kids from the Alisal Union School District were able to participate in our gray whale education program this January. This successful program was generously funded by a \$2500 grant from the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Youth Fund. With this money and a lot of organizing among chapter volunteers, Alisal Union School District, and Monterey Sport Fishing Boat Charters, we were able to provide classroom programs and boat trips for four fourth grade and four fifth grade classes.

This program was supported by many hours of volunteer effort. Chapter volunteer naturalists first went through a training session, then over the next several days went out in pairs to eight classes in schools identified as especially "high impact" (i.e. having a high percentage of socio-economically disadvantaged students in attendance). In class, our volunteers presented a slide show, displayed whale artifacts, and answered a lot of questions from the kids. The following week the Alisal District bussed the kids to Monterey Fishermen's Wharf where they joined the naturalists for two-hour boat trips. Many of these kids had never been on a boat before so it was quite an experience for them just to be out on the water and they really got excited when they saw the whales.

Many thanks are due to the volunteer naturalists: Allegra Bukojemsky, Jane King, Michelle Kinzel, Nancy Koppel, Liz Maul, Christine Revelas, and Libby Osnes-Erie. Thanks also to Jo Guerrero for submitting the grant proposal and chartering the boat trips. Classes from Alisal, Bardin, Frement, and Steinbeck schools were led by teachers Jackie Bach-y-Rita, Alicia Diaz, Cynthia Pena, Al Smith, Steven Eklund, Gino Cortez, Eloy Alaniz, and Gary Jones. Roberta Emerson, Alisal Union School District Director of Curriculum, and staff provided continued support for the program, as did the District's bus system. And, of course, a very special thank you to the gray whales!



Nightmare Delays Turn Into a Dream Come True: Gray Whale Boat Trip a HUGE Success

...by Jo Guerrero

It was really too good to be believed. After postponing our annual January boat trip TWICE due to rain, wind and big swells, about forty-five brave passengers and ACS trip naturalists enjoyed a spectacular whale-watching trip in the early morning hours of Superbowl Sunday.

Gray whale sightings at this late date in January are not nearly so predictable as earlier in the month, because by this time most of the population has typically migrated past the central coast enroute to Baja breeding and calving lagoons. However, we were fortunate to spot a single gray whale soon after reaching Point Pinos. As it turned out, that was just the beginning.

During the three hour trip, we saw more than a dozen gray whales, including a pod of at least four individuals swimming steadily south. Most exciting, we also observed a pod of four killer whales, including an adult male with huge upright dorsal fin, a mother with calf, and another female "type" (so called because it's difficult to determine whether its a female or a juvenile male). During the half hour or more that we stayed with the killer whales, we noted that a We were also fortunate to round out the morning with sightings of an otter with pup and many seabirds common to our area during this winter season.

...continued on Page 6

Marine Mammal Sightings: Dec. 26, 1994-Jan. 25, 1995

...compiled by Richard Ternullo

Heavy storms have reduced observations to a mere handful. The peak gray whale migration period was during the worst of the storms. However, there were still at least three observations of mother/calf grays compared to at least 28 last year. One gray whale was also present in Monterey harbor near Breackwater Cove on January 14 (C. Martinez). Best viewing of gray whales for shore observers will be from Point Lobos to Hurricane Point. By the time this newsletter is published, the first northbound whales will be seen during the first week or two in February. At the end of the month, most whales will be returing north, with an anticipated peak the last two weeks of March. Point Lobos will be the best shore opportunity for observations until the first mother/calves are present skirting the shore-line close to kelp beds.

Common dolphin observations, as all dolphin observations, have declined following the storm activity.

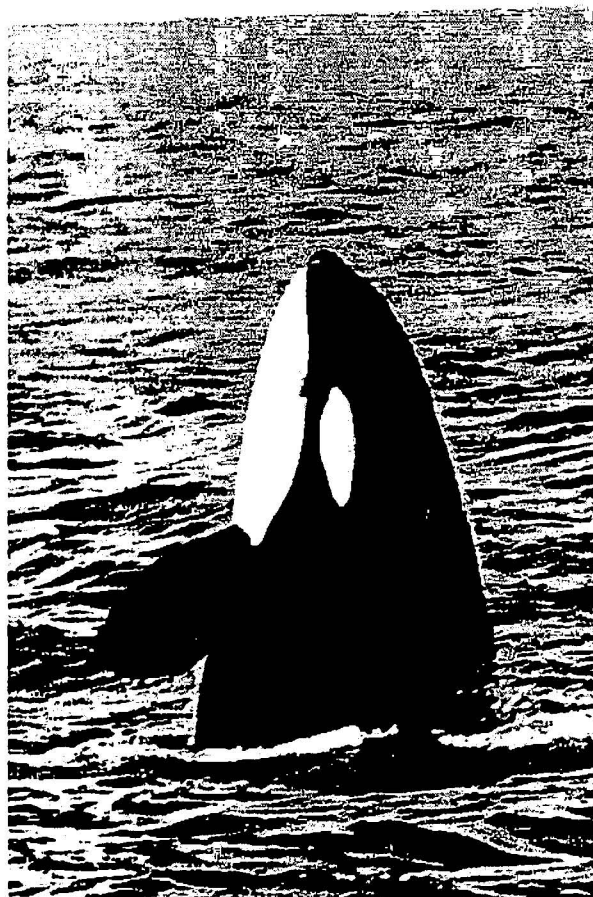
Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Killer whale			
1/16	3	near Cypress Point	NL
1/17	15-20	0.5 mi. S Point Pinos	WW
Long-beaked common dolphin			
12/28	200	3 mi. SW Point Pinos	RT
Along with California sea lions.			
1/14	10-15	0.75 mi. N Point Pinos	RT
1/25	500-1000	3 mi. SW Point Pinos	LO
Common dolphin sp.			
1/16	40-50	0.5 mi. N Hopkins Marine Station	HN
Risso's dolphin			
1/25	200	3 mi. SW Point Pinos	SHJ
Northern right whale dolphin			
1/11	1	Año Nuevo Island, San Mateo Co.	AB
A sub-adult female that was taken to Long Marine Lab. This is a rare stranding of this highly pelagic species.			
Dall's porpoise			
12/11	3-4	17 mi. W Point Pinos	SHJ
1/21	7-8	3.5 mi. SW Point Pinos	MBW
1/21	3	Carmel Bay	NL
California sea lion			
About 500-600 are hauled out on the Monterey breakwater.			
Harbor seal			
Found along rocky shores from Monterey harbor to Point lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.			

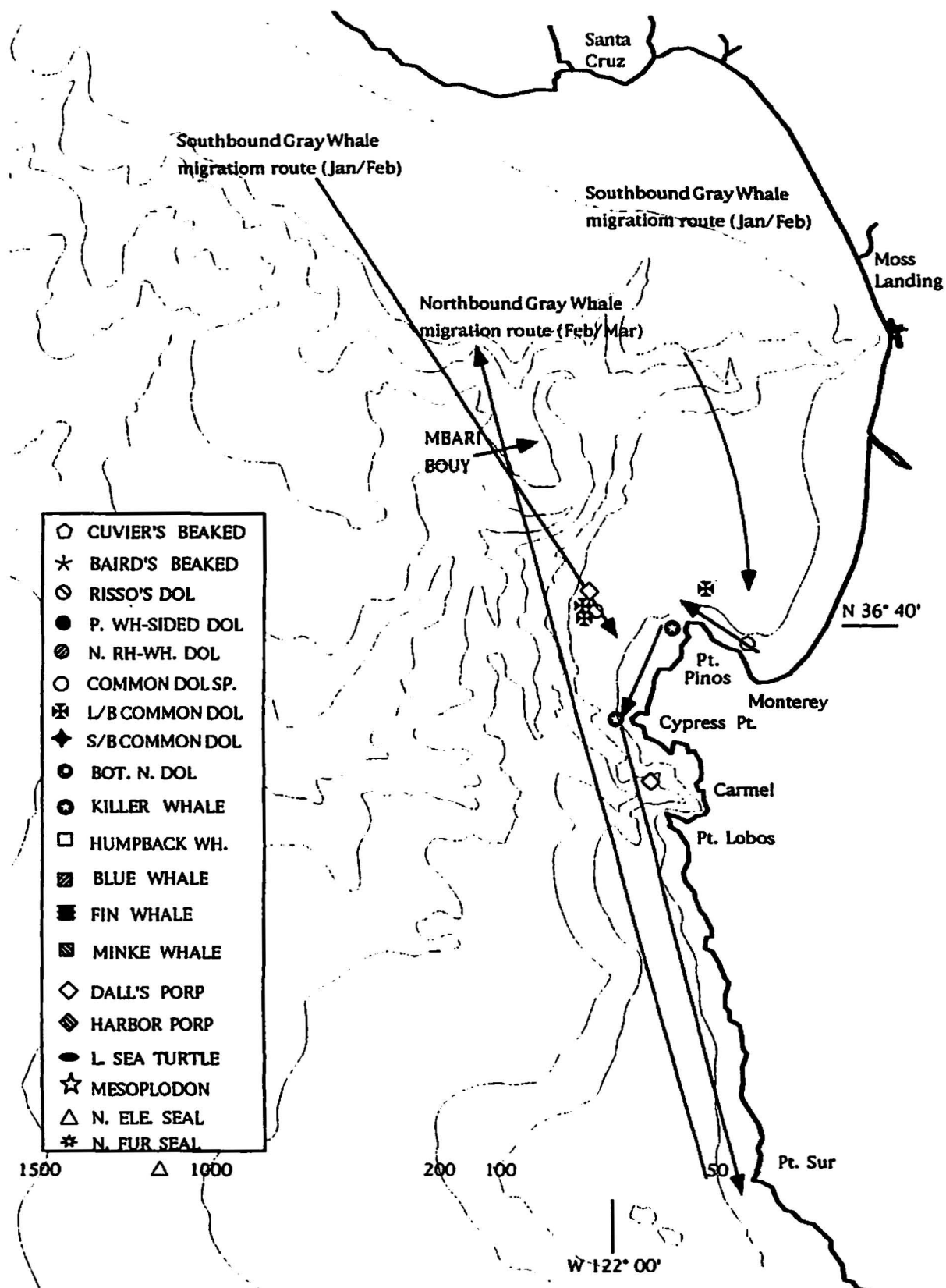
Southern (California) sea otter

Found almost anywhere along the outer coast, kelp beds, harbors, Elkhorn slough, and along the sandy shores within the bay.

Key to observers:

AB=A. Baldrige; DL=D. Lemon; NL=N. Lemon; HN=H. Neece; LO=L. Oliver; SHJ=Shearwater Journeys; RT=R. Ternullo and WW=W. Williamson.





Blow the Man Down!

...by **Mike Fitzsimmons**

"Weh, heh! Blow the man down!" sang the shanty man as he squeezed his concertina accordion. The crew sang back, "Give me some time to blow the man down!" Instead of a shanty man on a whale ship in the 1800's, this was Robert Webb, "The King of Shanty." And instead of a whale crew heaving on an anchor line or hoisting a canvas sail, his crew was the audience in the McCone Building Auditorium of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, there for the January 21 annual meeting of the Point Lobos Natural History Association.

Robert Webb, the curator of the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath, took the audience, with slides and song, through the history of commercial whaling in the Pacific Northwest. He chronicled the golden age of Pacific whaling from its beginning in 1788, when the first Nantucket whaleship beat its way around Cape Horn, and the cry from the masthead "Thar she spouts! And a spermi she be!" sent the Captain and crew scurrying to the long boats with harpoon and lance to chase the great pods of sperm whales found off the coast of Peru. From 1789 until the 1860's as many as 750 whaleships rounded the Horn to hunt whales in their previous Pacific sanctuary.

Mr. Webb spent eight years researching the whaling ships' relentless hunt northward in pursuit of first, the sperm whales in the tropics, then the humpbacks off Maui, north to the edge of the polar ice pack in 1848 for the bowheads in the Russian Kamchatka Sea, then east to icy waters off Alaska, and down the coast of California for the gray whales. Through slides and sea shanties, he shared with the audience the dangerous and colorful life of the whalers. The hardships of voyages lasting up to four years, were expressed in the shanties sung by the whalers as they bent their backs to the hard work of sailing a whaling ship and hunting for the great leviathan.

Mr. Webb chronicled the demise of the golden age of whaling and the technological advances in the late nineteenth century that revolutionized

whaling. The age of wind driven whaling ships gave way to the use of steam-powered chaser boats carrying large-bore cannons, which replaced the frail long boats carrying men armed with only a harpoon and lance. The age of long and dangerous whaling voyages ended with this new technology and with the movement of the whaling industry to the west coast in the 1860's and 1870's. No more would you hear the shanty man sing, "We're homeward bound from the icy ground, down to old Maui we sail. We're homeward bound around Cape Horn. Pull with a will lads, we're homeward bound! Weh, heh! Blow the man down!"



Gray Whale Trip

...continued from Page 3

Many thanks to our naturalists Alan Baldrige, Nancy Black, Libby Osnes-Erie and Jud Vandever. Thanks also to trip coordinator Debbie Ternullo and assistants Diane Glim and Kathy and Sue Whittaker. We are very grateful for the support of Skipper Leon Oliver and Trusty deckhand A.J., who once again donated their early morning time for this before-work excursion. And finally, none of this would have been possible without the support of Angelo Shake of Monterey Sportfishing; he not only gave us free use of the boat, but canceled his scheduled 9 a.m. trip when he heard on the radio that we were having such great luck with the whales. Thank you Angelo!

If any of you are interested in going out with us on our next trip (an all-day expedition at the end of August in search of blues and humpbacks) please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to ACS, P.O. Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950, attention: Fall Boat Trip. We'll send you the information you need in plenty of time to make your reservations.

Where Will You Watch Gray Whales This Winter?

...by *Esta Lee Albright*

Everyone knows about superb view of the migration from Pt. Lobos and from cliffs along Big Sur. So, how about getting a different perspective, learning a little more about whales, and helping others enjoy them—at Point Sur Light Station? From the “top of the Rock” there is an unparalleled feeling of vastness, the mighty Pacific swells and unmarked ocean expanse the gray whales travel.

Members of the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Cetacean Society have been whale-watch guides along side the history docents of Point Sur in January, February, and March for several years. In the past year, the State parks position that provided structure of the docent program was eliminated. Volunteers have carried on the responsibility of the week-end tours and are asking for our help again. They will welcome an ACS whalewatcher on any of the tours: Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning.

Choose dates in February and March that you know you'll be able to keep. Schedule your tour(s) with Esta Lee Albright (375-1658). Stay in touch with ACS coordinators before and after you do the tour.

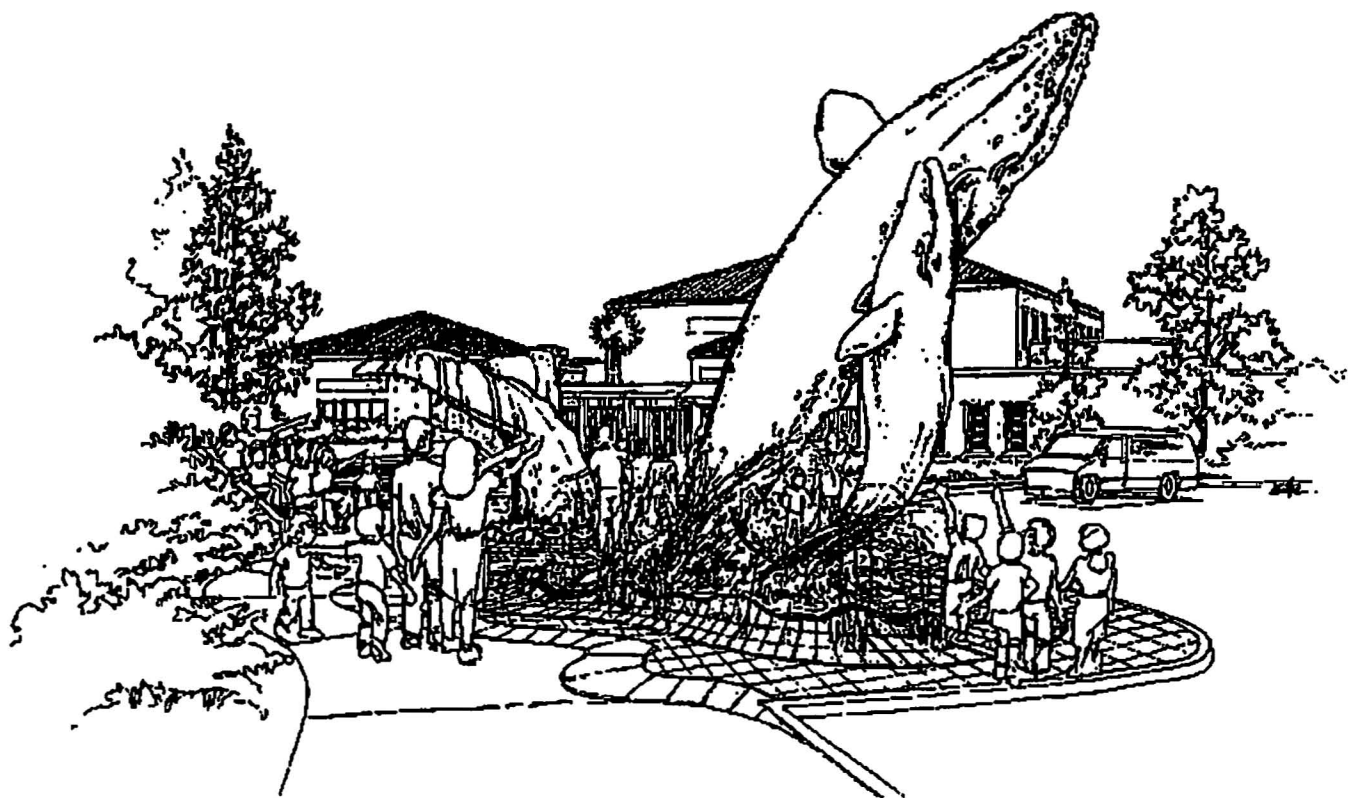


Underwater Acoustic Displays and Individual Variation in Male Harbour Seals, *Phoca vitulina*

...by *E. B. Hanggi and R. J. Schusterman*

Vocalizing by natural-living harbour seals has been considered to be rare, limited primarily to aerial threats. A few studies on captive harbour seals, however, indicated that this species produced a wider variety of aerial vocalizations than was previously thought. The objective of this study was to determine whether adult male harbour seals in the wild vocalized under water during the breeding season and whether there was any variation in vocalizations between individuals. Underwater vocalizations of 10 males were tape-recorded at Point Lobos State Reserve, California during the spring and summer of 1991. Females did not vocalize except on land when they threatened other seals. Observational data was taken to identify the vocalizing seal and to determine whether other seals in the vicinity showed any reactions to the vocalizations. Five vocalization types were identified and analyzed: grunt, groan, creak, bubbly growl and roar. There were significant differences between males with regard to the frequency measurements of the roars as well as to their entire acoustic displays but there was little intra-individual variation. It is suggested that underwater vocalizations are used in male-male competition and/or as reproductive advertisement displays to attract females.

Abstract from: Animal Behavior (1994) Vol. 48:1275-1283.



Life Size Whales at Scripps Summer 1995

...by **Randy Puckett**

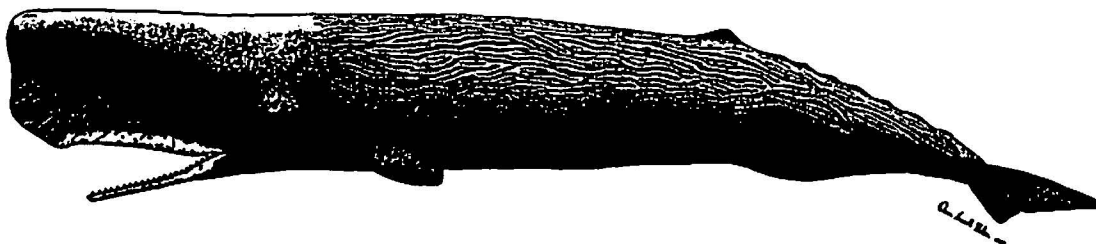
Last summer, I was approached by Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California with a view to creating a life size sculpture of a gray whale and calf for the new Stephen Birch Aquarium at Scripps. We've been discussing the project for a bit over a year, and now, thanks to the generosity of some members of the Scripps family, it is going to happen!

I am creating a life size breaching gray whale and calf, plus the tail of a third animal, all to be installed as a fountain. When completed, this piece, at about 40 feet tall, will be among the

largest bronzes ever cast in the United States. also unique in that, to my knowledge, it will be the only life size bronze sculpture of any of the large whales anywhere in the world!

We're anticipating a completion and installation in late June, 1995. In conjunction with the unveiling, I believe the Aquarium at Scripps is planning an exhibition of my work.

Source: The Whales of Randy Puckett Studio Newsletter, Autumn 1994. Randy Puckett was instrumental in the funding of the ACS/Monterey Bay chapter and served as its first president.



Welcome to New Members

The ACS\Monterey Bay Chapter is pleased to welcome new members Cliff and Tigger Misener of Brookings, Oregon; Michelle Kinzel of Marina; Robert and Patricia Brown, Ray and Joyce Denne, Michelle Lander, and James and Barbara Olney of Monterey; Jean Thelsen of Pebble Beach; Justine Carson and Pat Hathaway of Pacific Grove; Amanda Koehne of Salinas; Greg Meyer of Santa Cruz; and Jane King of Watsonville.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign	\$45
		<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25

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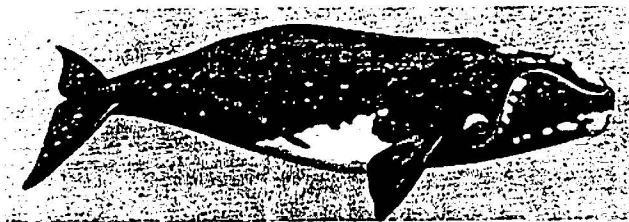
March 1995 Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, March 30, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Barbara Britten, Marine Environment Consultant and U.S. Commissioner to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Topic: How Are Marine Mammals Faring These Days?



Right Whale

Our speaker, no stranger to ACS, will review some of the good and bad news on selected species of whales, dolphins and porpoises and other marine mammals from around the world. Particularly stressed will be a discussion of some of the less well publicized populations that face threats from both human and other external sources.

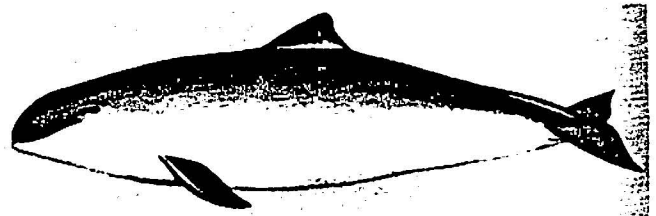
She will also bring us up-to-date on some of the issues and problems facing many marine mammals that are cross-boundary species and are managed, insofar as they are managed at all, by international or regional treaties or other regulatory regimes.

Even though she recently left Washington D.C. for Davis, she maintains many of her contacts in Washington, as well as her keen interest in the area of public policy on conservation/environmental issues influencing the protection and conservation of the marine ecosystems and their biodiversity. She will discuss some of the public policy debates and/or

conflicts as they are evolving in the new political structure and atmosphere in the Congress and administrative agencies.

Barbara spent from 1980 to 1994 in Washington as ACS/National's representative there. Many of us who have been members for some time will remember her "Washington Report", published quarterly and 48 of them were distributed to all ACS members as an insert in the "Whale News." She also represented ACS at every annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission from 1980 through 1992; for three of them she served as a member of the official U.S. delegation. Recently, President Clinton appointed her to be the sole environmentalist represented on the four-member U.S. Commission to the IATTC.

You'll find Barbara to be a very interesting, well-informed and delightful speaker. Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful evening!



Vaquita

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MAR 20 1995

A Persistent Dilemma and the New Marine Mammal Protection Act

...by **Barbara Britten**

Many of us remember, 10 years ago, when national media attention focused on "Herschel," a famous, or infamous, California sea lion. His fame rested on his appetite for and skill at catching and eating steelhead trout at the Ballard Locks entrance to the Lake Washington Ship Canal, a waterway/dam system connecting Puget Sound with spawning grounds inland from Seattle. He became a paradigm reinforcing the commercial salmonid fishing interests' firm conviction that these and other pinnipeds were the chief culprits causing the precipitous decline in many anadromous fish stocks in the Pacific Northwest.

The issue of fisheries-marine mammal interactions has been one of the most difficult and contentious of the many controversial elements in the MMPA, especially during its reauthorization process. Last year, after two and one-half years of effort, a vastly changed MMPA was finally approved on April 30th. Very late in the process, without any prior knowledge or public committee hearings, the final bill included a new section promoted by commercial fishing interest groups in the Northwest and New England.

Section 120 created a totally new regulatory regime specifically covering pinniped-fisheries interactions. There is a provision for a state agency to apply for a permit for intentional lethal takes of clearly identifiable "nuisance" pinnipeds, under certain conditions and subject to many restrictions imposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife made such an application in the summer last year. Under the new law, NMFS created a Pinniped-fishery Interaction Task Force. This 21-member group included representatives from the state and federal agencies, fishing interests, pinniped scientists, Indian tribes and environmental organizations. It held meetings open to the public participation on eight occasions in gaining information for its report. The report included many suggestions for reducing the effect of pinniped predation at Ballard ranging from no action, to

acoustic barriers, translocation, or various combinations, many of which have been tried since 1985, with little success. The preferred alternative was to make all practicable attempts to remove the individual animals from the Ballard Locks area, almost all of which have been identified by branding by NMFS staff and placing them in temporary, controlled holding areas, with no access by the public, during the winter steelhead run from January through June. Lethal action, by an Animal Care Committee's recommendation for the most humane form of euthanasia, will be permitted only for the few animals that have been observed to be catching and eating the steelhead prey. NMFS has also placed numerical restrictions on these lethal takes as a function of the total observed fish over 7 or 14 day periods.

Grave concern about the status of steelhead in that region is amply justified. The number of wild steelhead escaping from the locks upstream to spawn during the winter run has declined from about 2600 in 1983 to only 70 fish last year. The number of smolts that can escape downstream during the out-migration to the sea is unknown. A study prepared at the request of the Marine Mammal Commission noted that, while the Lake Washington decline of steelhead appears to be the most widespread, other salmonids throughout the whole northwest have suffered declines between 1985 and 1994. By no means all of these declines can be blamed on pinniped predation. Other factors, as yet proven, may play a role, including El Niño, habitat degradation, competition with other species, etc.

As of the end of February, one sea lion, branded in 1989, and observed since then to have eaten 13 fish over those years, has been captured and is being held by the state fisheries agency; he currently eats 34 pounds of herring a day. In the meantime, since January 1, only 13 counted steelhead have gone through the locks successfully and are heading upstream to spawn.

Research Report...

Global Warming Linked to Changes in Intertidal Zone

...by **Hudson Sangree**

A 60-year comparison of plants and animals on the shores of California's Monterey Bay shows that southern species are increasing as native northern species decline, a change linked to a rise in shoreline ocean temperatures.

Global warming is the best explanation for these changes, according to a study by researchers at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

The study is the first to show the effects of more than a half-century of climate change on a coastal ecosystem. It is based on a careful, inch-by-inch accounting of the fauna living in 35 squares of rocks and tidepools, each one yard by one yard, along a transect between high and low tides on the shoreline of Monterey Bay.

The counts were conducted by students Sarah Gilman and Rafe Sagarin, both earth systems majors, as part of an undergraduate research program at Hopkins. Their results were compared with data collected when the same squares were surveyed by naturalist W.G. Hewatt in 1931-1933, while Hewatt was a Stanford doctoral candidate.

Of the 45 invertebrate species counted and statistically compared between the two time periods, the populations of eight of nine southern species increased while the populations of five of eight northern species decreased. Among the 28 "cosmopolitan species," those that live in a range of climates, about the same number showed increases as decreases.

Temperatures recorded at Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove, California, over the last 60 years show that the annual mean shoreline ocean temperature at the study site has increased by 0.75 degrees Celcius (1.35 degrees Fahrenheit).

When seasonal water temperatures for the two eras are compared, the mean summer maximum temperatures are higher by 2.2 degrees Celcius (4 degrees Fahrenheit) in the 1980s-90s compared to the 1920s-30s.

MARCH 1995

"It is rare to find hard data on the abundance of an entire animal community spanning 60 years, and it allows us to measure their adjustments to changing temperature," says James Barry of the aquarium's research institute, who co-authored the study with Chuck Baxter, a biologist emeritus at Hopkins.

"What we see in these data is evidence that the effects of global warming may already be apparent, at least in the Northern Hemisphere."

From: Stanford Observer (Winter 1995).

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Marine Mammal Sightings: January 26 – February 25, 1995

...compiled by *Richard Ternullo*

This month is usually one reserved to comment on the gray whale migration, however, reports and observations of humpback, fin, minke, and especially killer whales, liven up the month. The diversity of species resembles the Oceanic season rather than the onset of the Upwelling season which is only a few weeks away. None of my records contain a sighting of humpbacks from late December to about the middle of April, and I have only one winter observation of a fin whale. Minke observations are sporadic and variable during winter. Some

of these unusual sightings are from the ATOC surveys. Improved weather conditions have allowed whalewatching boats to resume normal operations and probably contribute to the clustering of observations SW of Point Pinos along the northbound gray whale track.

Killer whale sightings have been incredible ever since the ACS boat trip (finally!) encountered four on 1/28. They have been seen in groups as large as 15-20 in our area, and up to 60-80 off Orange County (via A. Schulman-Janiger).

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Fin whale			
2/8	1	41 mi. SW Point Lobos	ATOC
Humpback whale			
2/8	2	20 mi. WSW Cypress Point	ATOC
2/9	1	50 mi. SSW Point Sur	ATOC
2/9	1	28 mi. W Point Pinos	ATOC
2/10	1	1 mi. W Seal Rocks	HN
2/18	1	2.5 mi. W Soldier's Club	JL
2/23	2	7 mi. NW Point Pinos	RVPL

Graywhale

Almost all whales were northbound by February 22. They are still very observable from sites such as Point Lobos, Granite Creek, or Hurricane Point. By the end of the next reporting period, northbound migration should be at, or past, its peak. Mothers and their calves should be apparent in late March/early April along kelp beds close to the coast (especially if so many KW are still present!).

Minkewhale

2/8	1	1.5 mi. WSW Point Pinos	HN
2/15	1	3 mi. W Point Joe	LO

Cuvier's beaked whale

2/8	2	45 mi. SW Point Lobos	ATOC
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Killer whale

1/28	4	2 mi. W Point Joe	DR
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Eight Dall's porpoise fled north and a female-type killer whale gave a pursuit. They also passed >10m from some California sea lions without a noticeable response from either.

2/3	8	2 mi. W Cypress Point	JW
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About 125 California sea lions in three groups fled generally north and east. One sea lion tried jumping aboard the F/V Pt. Sur Clipper to avoid the killer whales. At about 11:02 the same sea lion was lost in a flurry of white water and then next seen moments later motionless at the surface, and then was never seen again as the whales began diving in one place. At 13:07 a mother/calf pair was seen to harass/play with a common murre. Activity was accompanied by spyhopping, headstands, and breaching.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Killer whale (con't)			
2/4	5	3 mi. NW Cypress Point	WW
2/11	5-6	Near Soquel Canyon	MB
2/14	3	3.5 mi. WSW Point Pinos	LO
2/19	4	3.5 mi. W Point Joe	LO
2/19	6	3.5 mi. SW Point sur	CD
2/19	40	1-3 mi. from Cooper Point	FGB
2/20	6	4.5 mi. W Point Pinos	NL
2/20	16-20	10 mi. W Moss Landing	RVN
2/24	5	1.5 mi. W Point Lobos	HN

Risso's dolphin

1/25	200	4 mi. SW Point Pinos	SHJ
2/8	20	1.5 mi. W Yankee Point	RT
2/15	150	1 mi. NW Point Lobos	RT
2/17	12	2 mi. W Asilomar Beach	BL
2/18	20-25	Near Monterey Breakwater	LO
2/21	500	6 mi. SW Point Pinos	HN

In only the second occurrence recorded, about 10-12 of these dolphins engaged in bowriding.

2/22	75-100	3 mi. W Point Joe	JW
2/24	200	Near Point Lobos	HN

Harassing two groups of gray whales.

2/25	300-400	4 mi. SW Point Pinos	JL
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Associated with 5 northern right whale dolphins and 20 common dolphin sp. Harassing at least 6 groups of gray whales.

Bottlenose dolphin

2/9	2	0.5 mi. W Point Joe	ATOC
2/19	5	In kelp N of Point Pinos Light House	NL
2/20	8-10	In kelp off Hopkin's Marine Station	RT
2/22	3	Near Monterey Breakwater	LO

Pacific white-sided dolphin

2/8	600	45 mi. SW Santa Cruz	ATOC
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Along with 200 northern right whale dolphins.

2/13	2000	1.5 mi. SW Cypress Point	JW
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Common dolphin sp.

2/3	100	1.5 mi. W Point Pinos	LO
2/3	300	1 mi. NW Hopkin's Marine Station	LO
2/14	3000-4000	4 mi. WSW Point Pinos	JW

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
2/16	2000-3000	1.5 mi. W Point Pinos	HN
2/18	4000-5000	About 9.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	DG
2/18	150	3.5 mi. SW Point Pinos	JL
2/20	12	Near Point Pinos bouy	RV
2/20	1000	3 mi. W Hurricane Point	BL
2/21	3000-5000	3 mi. W Point Pinos	JW

Long-beaked common dolphin

1/25	1000	3 mi. SW Point Pinos	LO
1/31	750	4 mi. SW Point Pinos	MBW
2/2	750	3 mi. SW Point Pinos	SHJ
2/4	50	2.5 mi. SW Point Pinos	SJ

Associated with 40 California sea lions.

2/7	500	3 mi. WNW Point Pinos	ATOC
2/8	1000	7 mi. W Point Lobos	ATOC
2/17	2000-3000	4 mi. W Point Joe	BL
2/21	3000-5000	3 mi. SW Point Pinos	MBW
2/24	200	7.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
2/25	150	3.5 mi. W Cypress Point	RT

Dall's porpoise

1/31	20	2 mi. N Point Pinos Light House	WW
2/4	6-8	4.5 mi. W Cypress Point	MBW
2/8	6	8.5 mi. W Point Lobos	ATOC
2/10	10-15	6 mi. NW Point Pinos	HN
2/16	4-6	8 mi. WNW Point Pinos	SHJ
2/18	6-10	4 mi. W Cypress Point	RT

Harbor porpoise

2/7	2	2.5 mi. N Monterey Harbor	ATOC
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Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Northern elephant seal			
2/4	1	5 mi. SW Point Pinos	SHJ

Northern fur seal

There are up to twelve possible sightings on outer Bay waters, all by the ATOC aerial survey.

California sea lion

Numbers of sea lions on Monterey breakwater have declined to almost nothing with most individuals preferring to haul out on vessels or forming rafts in the harbor. Overall, numbers seem low for this time of year.

Harbor seal

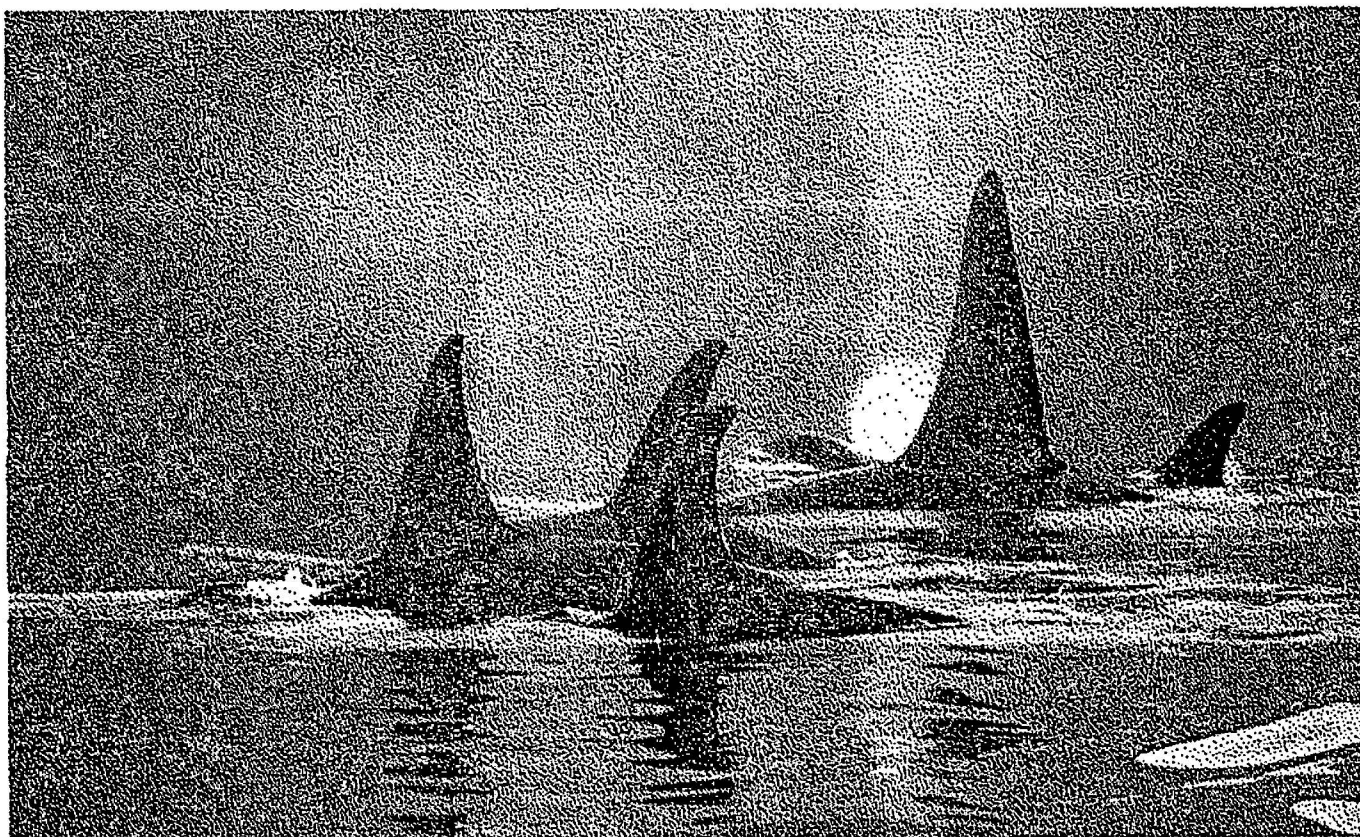
Found along rocky shores from Monterey harbor to Point Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.

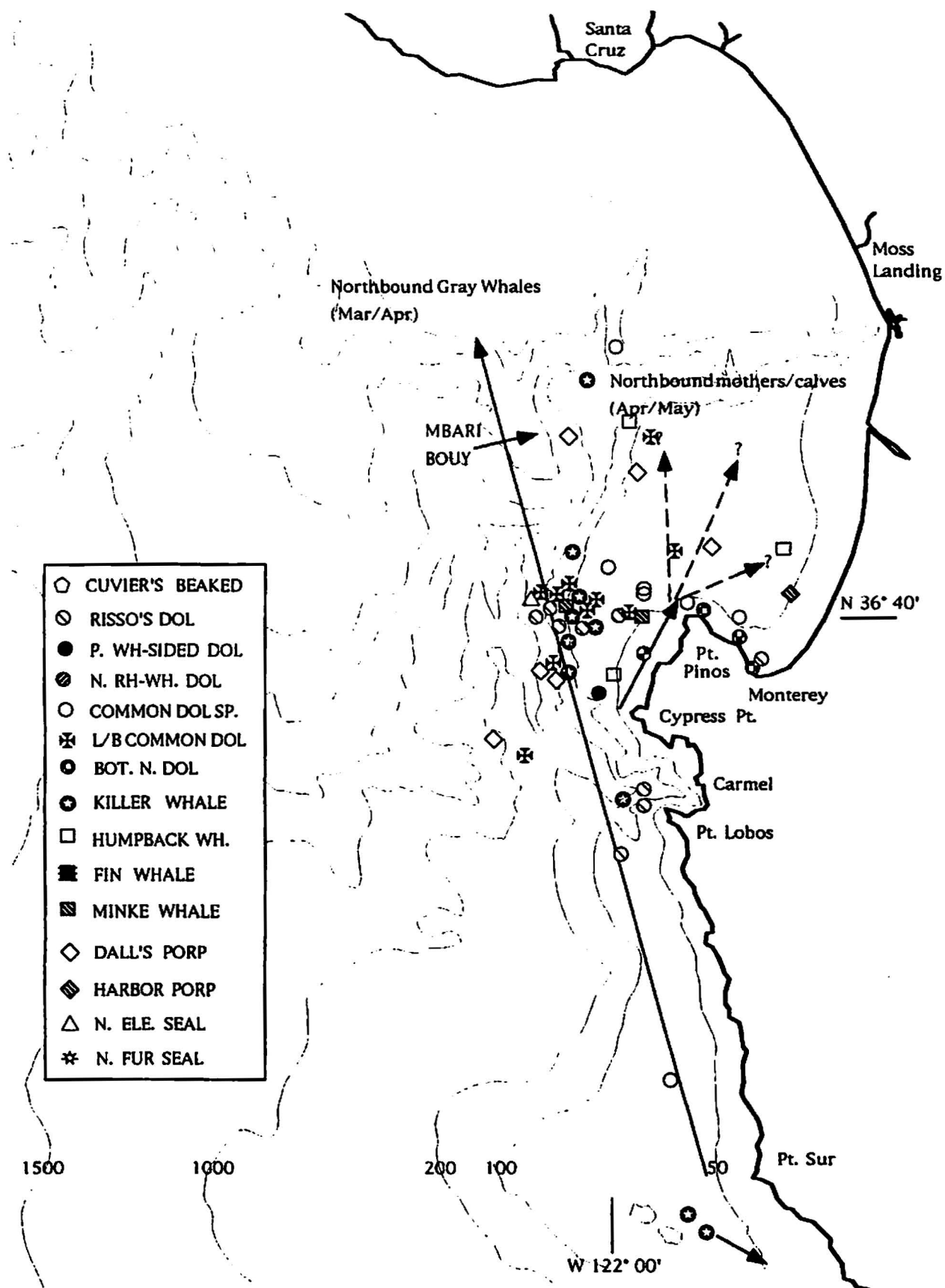
Southern (California) Sea Otter

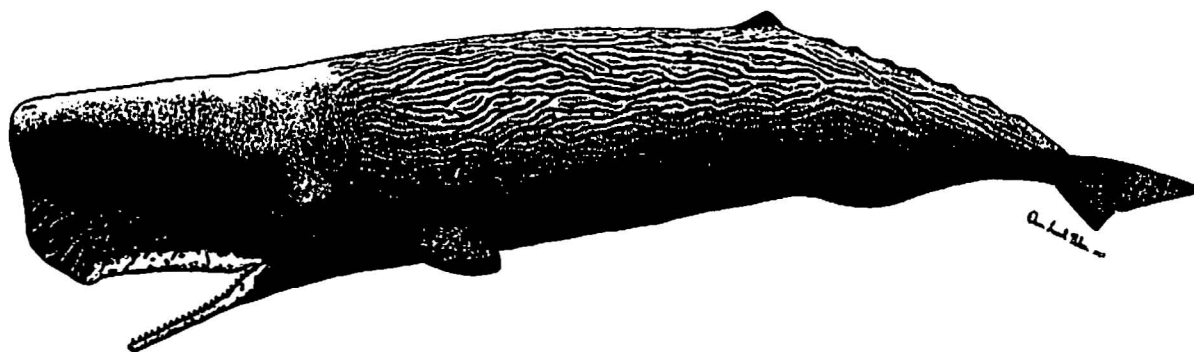
Found almost anywhere along the outer coast, kelp beds, harbors, Elkhorn Slough, and along the sandy shores within the bay.

Key to observers:

ATOC=ATOC aerial survey; MB=M. Baxter; CD=D. Dennie; DG=D. Goley; FGB=DFG P/V Bluefin; BL=B. Lucas; JL=J. Lewis; MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch; HN=H. Neece; LO=L. Oliver; RVPL=R/V Pt. Lobos, DR=D. Rookiard; RVN=R/V Nyia (UCSC); SHJ=Shearwater Journeys; RT=R. Ternullo; RV=R. Verts; JW=J. Williamson; WW=W. Williamson.







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Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.



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Type of Membership, Annual Dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45
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MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
APRIL 1995

April 1995 Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, April 27, 7:30 PM

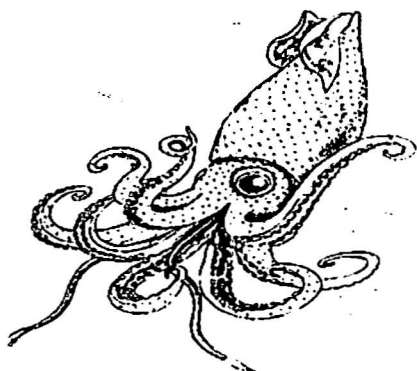
Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Jay Stein Hunt, University of California, Los Angeles and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

Topic: Giant Squids and Their Relatives: Cephalopods of the Monterey Bay Region, Their Behavior and Ecology

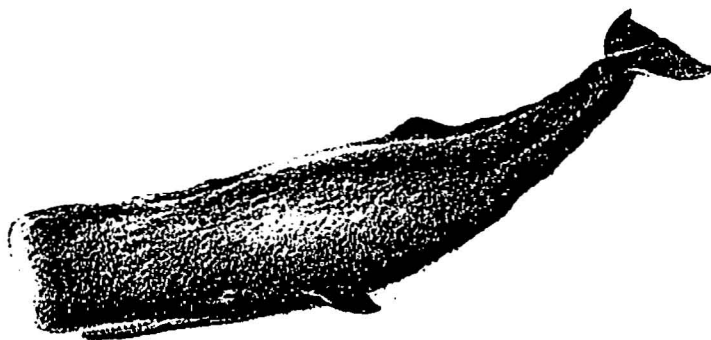
This area is home to at least 35 species of cephalopods. They include one midwater and 12 benthic octopus species and 22 species of squids. Seven or eight species have now been observed from "Ventana", MBARI's ROV (remotely operated vehicle).

Our speaker studies these animals through direct observation in the field and in the laboratory, together with analysis of video footage. He will describe some of their remarkable behavior and use of bioluminescence. His talk will range from the gregarious market squid (*Loligo*), a gastronomic favorite, to the local "giant" squids *Moroteuthis* and *Histioteuthis*. Jay will also discuss the occurrence of the largest of all squids *Architeuthis*, of which there are several California



Histioteuthis sp.

Illustration by Art Tice



Sperm whale

records. He will explain and dispel the myths related to this species and sperm whales.

Cephalopods, both octopus and squid, are important—in some cases critical—dietary items for marine mammals, both pinnipeds and cetaceans. Local consumers range from sperm whales down to Pacific white-sided dolphins and harbor seals. Seabirds also consume large numbers.

Our speaker is a graduate student in the laboratory of Professor Bill Hamner at U.C.L.A. He is presently completing his Ph.D. work at MBARI and in the process increasing our understanding of these spectacular denizens of the Bay and deep sea.

APR 20 1995

HOPKINS MARINE STATION LIBRARY

Examples of Largest Takes of Small Cetaceans from 1994 International Whaling Commission (IWC) Reports

..by Barbara Britten

Before leaving for Monterey to speak at the March meeting of the lively and responsive ACS chapter there, I had no chance to prepare the April report to some chapters. Several people there were interested in a brief mention of the mortality of small cetaceans resulting from directed or incidental takes in several countries' commercial fishing operations. The following table includes only some of the largest takes. Data are excerpted from the report by the Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans, a part of the IWC's Scientific Committee.

1. **Denmark:** It withholds its data on both the directed or incidental takes of narwhals and belugas in Greenland, which is administratively under Denmark in the IWC, as are the Faroes. No reports are submitted on the islands' pilot whale drive fishery. Denmark's estimate of 4,629 harbor porpoises is based on a limited observer program in its North Sea turbot and cod set-net fisheries.

2. **Ecuador:** The 5,227 "unidentified dolphins," an estimate from observers at only four ports out of many, is believed to be only one-third to one-half of the actual annual mortality.

3. **ETP** (Eastern Tropical Pacific): This number is a combined total of these species caught by the tuna fishing purse seine fleets; these catches are derived from reports prepared by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. (IATTC)

4. **Peru:** This reported total is believed by scientists who have done research on cetacean bycatches in Peru to be a large undercount. Total estimates range from 10,000 to 15,000.

5. **Japan:** This country in the IWC is the only one reporting a large directed take of small cetaceans. The overall total represents nearly half of the cumulative total of all takes reported to the Sub-Committee - 35,000+. The Dall's porpoise take is probably well over 10% of the total population of that species' stock inhabiting Japanese waters. Almost all of these catches are for human consumption. (Historically, Japanese commissioners have insisted that the IWC has no "competence" to include small cetaceans in its deliberations.)

6. **USA:** The Sub-Committee report also listed the U.S.A. as having a directed take of 396 belugas. The permit for this take is granted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Interior Department) to Alaskan Native tribes as an "aboriginal take."

	D=Directed take (1) Denmark	I=Incidental take (2) Ecuador*	(3) ETP	*Non-member of IWC (4) Peru	(5) Japan
Baird's beaked whale					54(D)
Short-finned pilot whale					337(D)
Dusky dolphin				1,031(I)	
Bottlenose dolphin				861(I)	2,150(D)
Pan-tropical spotted			1,902(I)		
Spinner dolphin			1,236(I)		
Striped dolphin					544(D)
Common dolphin			312(I)		
Long-beaked common				602(I)	
Risso's dolphin					505(D)
Dall's porpoise					14,318(D)
Burmeister's porpoise				308(I)	
Harbor porpoise	4,629(I)				
Unidentified dolphins		5,227(I)			
Combined Total in IWC Report from all 15 Countries, plus ETP = 35,229/35,255 (1993 data)					

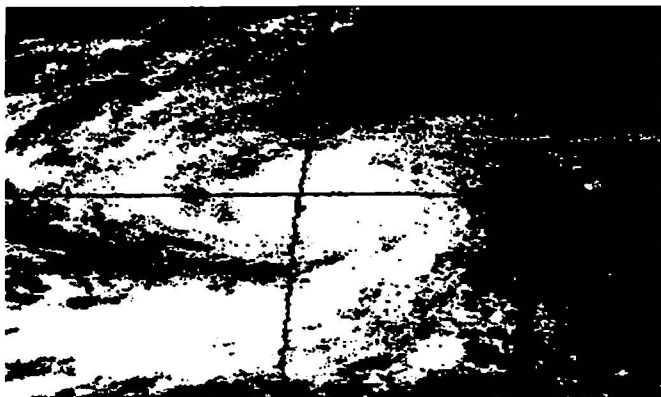
(Barbara Britten has worked as a conservation lobbyist/consultant for many years in Washington D.C. and is now living in Davis, California. She is now providing this up-to-date conservation news on a monthly basis for ACS Monterey Bay).

"We Live and Die by Those Buoys!"

...by *Mike Fitzsimmons*

When the representative of the National Weather Service announced that 22 weather buoys would be taken out of service within the next two years, a big, burly commercial fishermen retorted, "We live and die by those buoys!"

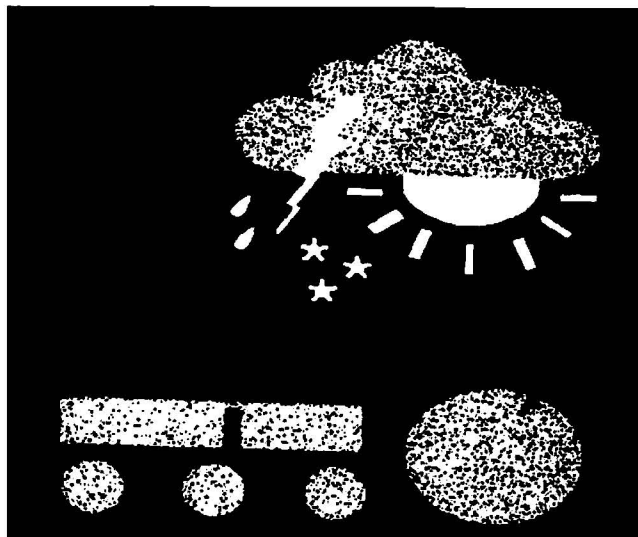
Representatives of the National Weather Service held a public conference at the Monterey Conference Center on Thursday evening, April 6. This "Marine Users Conference" invited all those who venture out to sea and rely on marine weather forecasting. The conference was attended by almost 100 people, including commercial and sport fishermen, boaters, surfers, marine researchers, and even a few whale watchers.



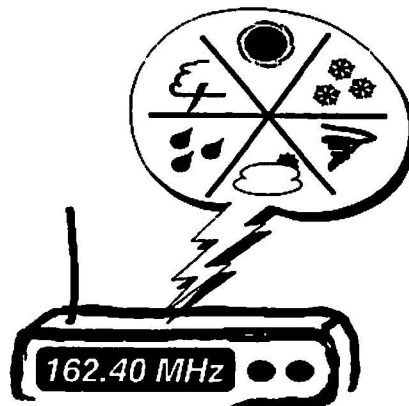
Hurricane Olivia - 1994

The Service representatives explained the cost of maintaining one of these half million dollar weather data collecting buoys is \$65,000 a year, a cost that the present Republican congress is reluctant to finance. Another man in the audience grumbled, "That's what it will cost for one full-scale search and rescue operation when one of us is lost at sea!"

The speakers were sympathetic, "The weather buoy off Santa Cruz will again be funded, but others off the central coast may not." They explained that 52% of all weather buoys off both



coasts, Alaska, and Hawaii were privately funded, and those funds were drying up. The good news, they said, was the new National Ocean Center planned for Monterey in the future. This Center will combine the forecasting expertise of several National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrative agencies with the research capabilities of the Naval Post Graduate School and the new Monterey Bay State University. High resolution profiles of sea surface temperatures, currents, and weather will then be available. This is little comfort, however, to the commercial fishermen, the whale watcher, or the boater planning a trip to sea in the near future, and relying on a marine weather forecast to tell him whether he will have a safe or stormy voyage.



Marine Mammal Sightings: February 26 – March 25, 1995

...compiled by **Richard Ternullo**

Winter storms have once again inhibited observations, but the onset of better weather during the last two weeks of the month enabled sightings to increase. The anticipated northwesterly winds common in spring have been variable and weak. The onset of the associated upwelling season does not seem strongly indicated. Most interesting of observations this period are the capture of fish

associated with warm water regimes most characteristic of the Southern California bight. Those are: California barracuda, white sea bass, and blacksmith.

Long-term warming and signs of El Niño, are indicated by the diversity of marine mammal species and the persistence of mola molas. SSTs are around 57–59 F°, or almost 15 C°.

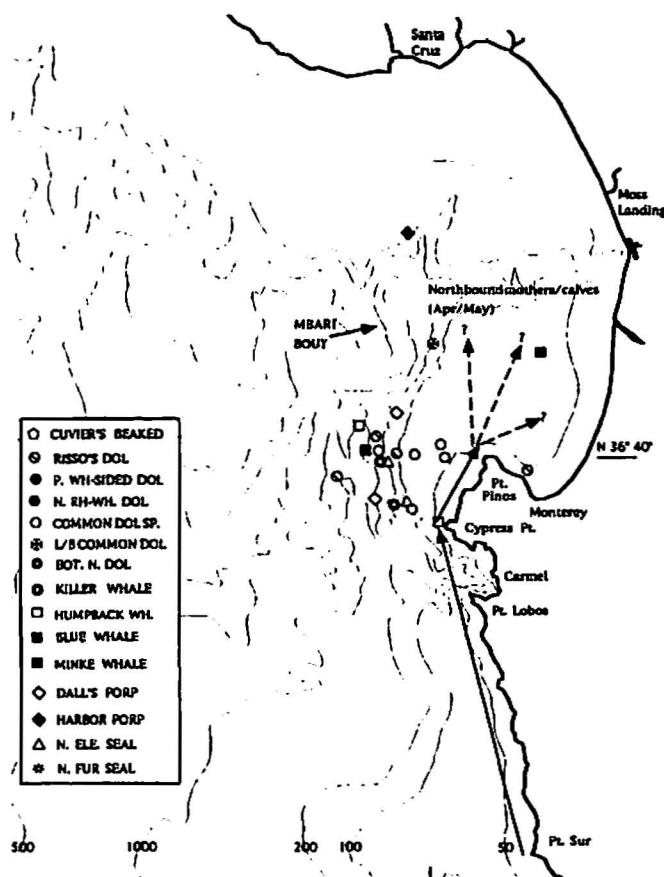
Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Bluewhale			
2/26	1	4.5 mi. SW Point Pinos	NB
Humpbackwhale			
2/25	1	Near Cypress Point	WW
3/2	1	4.5 mi. W Seal Rock	WW
Graywhale			
These whales are seen along the coast close to kelp beds at this time of year. Most sightings will be of mothers with calves. They will be traversing the coast avoiding predators and deep water.			
3/6	2	East edge of Soquel Canyon	WW
Minkwhale			
3/4	1	2.5 mi. W Marina State Beach	RT
Killerwhale			
3/2	4	4 mi. W Seal Rock	LO
3/17	2	2 mi. W Cypress Point	WW
Risso's dolphin			
2/26	500	4.5 mi. W Cypress Point	WW
Associated with 20 Pacific white-sided dolphin and 20 northern right whale dolphin.			
3/4	4-5	3.2 mi. SW Point Pinos	Mbs
Seen in association with mating gray whales.			
3/11	400	4.5 mi. WSW Point Pinos	DR
With 30 Pacific white-sided dolphin and 50 northern right whale dolphin.			
3/16	30	0.5 mi. N Lovers Point	KA
Common dolphinsp.			
3/2	200	4 mi. W Seal Rock	LO
3/5	8-10	1.5 mi. SW Point Pinos	RT
3/11	300	3 mi. SW Point Pinos	LO
3/17	1,000	1.5 mi. W Cypress Point	LO
3/19	15	2 mi. W Asilomar Beach	WW
Long-beaked common dolphin			
3/18	10	5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
3/18	20	2.5 mi. W Cypress Point	LO
Harborporpoise			
3/19	1	7.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	SHJ
Northern elephant seal			
2/27	1	2.5 mi. W Cypress Point	RT
3/18	1	4 mi. SW Point Pinos	RT
California sea lion			

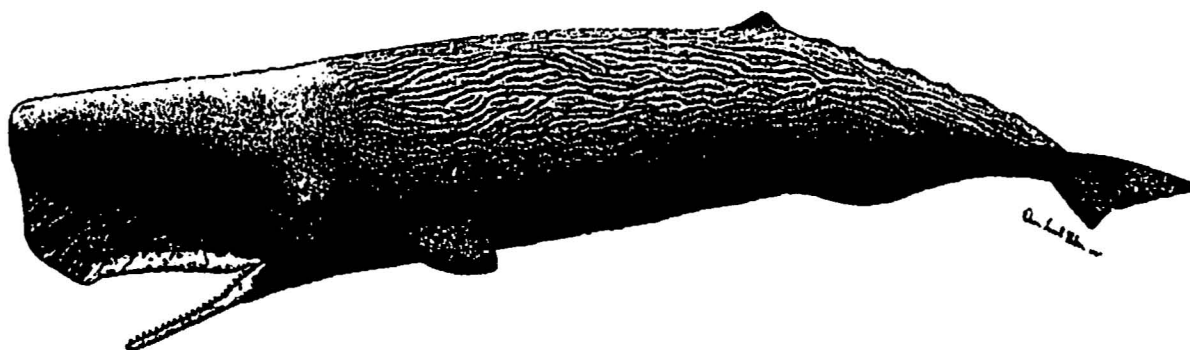
California sea lions are still not hauling out on the Monterey breakwater. They are preferring to form rafts in the harbor or haulout on boats within the harbor.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Harborseal			
Found hauling out from Elkhorn Slough and Monterey Harbor along rocky coasts to Point Lobos.			
Southern (California) sea otter			
Seen along the coast associated with kelpbeds or habitats similar to harbor seals.			

Key to observers:

KA= K. Arzaga; NB=N. Black; DR=D. Rooklark; LO=L. Oliver; SHJ=Shearwater Journeys; RT=R. Ternullo; and WW=W. Williamson





Welcome to New Members

The ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter is pleased to welcome new members Keith and Lynn Chase of Carmel; Doreen G. Moser of Moss Landing; and Kuunani Burkhardt of Santa Cruz.

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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
MAY 1995

May 1995 Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, May 25, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Cheryl Baduini, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California State University

Topic: Basking Sharks: their abundance, distribution, feeding behavior and ecology in Monterey Bay and elsewhere.

Basking sharks are, at 32 ft. (max.), the world's second largest fish after the 45 ft. whale shark. Both, like the great whales, are plankton feeders. Our speaker will comment on these two species, as well as the recently discovered and described megamouth, which feeds in a similar fashion.

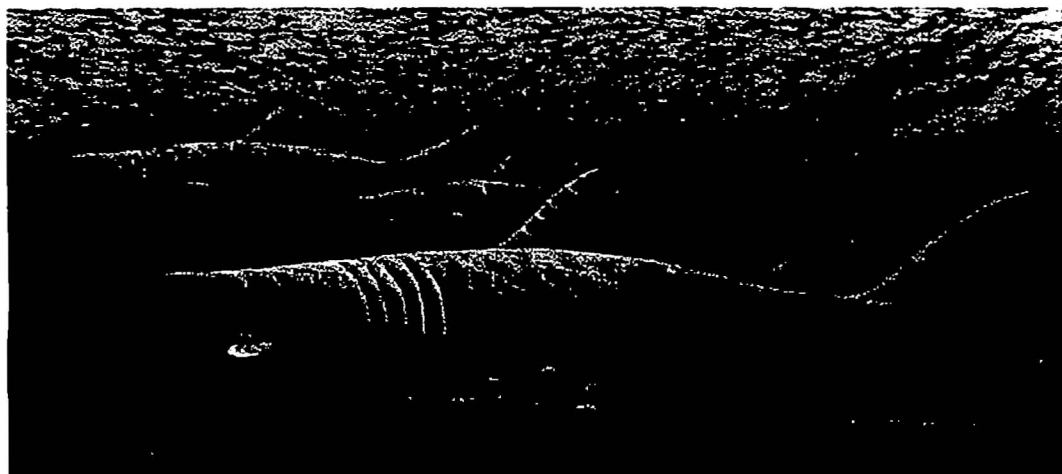
Historically a fishery for basking sharks existed in California waters, including Monterey Bay, in the 1920's and again in the 1940's. Most current studies have been carried out in Norwegian and Scottish waters. Cheryl's study is the first extensive west coast work on this slow swimming species, which inhabits surface waters, often close to shore, when feeding. She has confirmed that the major feed here, as

elsewhere, consists of planktonic copepods. In our case the species is *Calanus pacificus*.

Basking sharks are mysterious creatures, with much of their lives unknown. While it is annual in its occurrence in Monterey Bay area waters, it is unpredictable and sporadic as to season and numbers. It is unknown what they do and where they go when they disappear from local surface waters. This shark is also the source of some "sea monster" accounts which are usually prompted by the arrival on a local beach of a much weathered, partially decomposed and unrecognizable carcass of 20 feet or more in length!

Please join us for an informative evening as we learn what is known and what is yet to be learned about these enigmatic animals.

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Basking Shark

MAY 16 1995

Supreme Court Ponders Endangered Species Act Challenge

...by Barbara Britten

The month of April brought before the Supreme Court an important case challenging one of the core strengths of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its future. On April 17, it heard arguments on what has become the prime focus for the ESA opponents and is a lightning rod for their anger at the perceived evils of this 1973 law. Although nothing in its citation suggests its focus, its basis is the spotted owl vs. the Northwest timber industry joined by some southeastern property owners. The suit was filed in a lower court by a coalition of these interest groups against the Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt. Last year a federal appeals court ruled against the government, which was defending the ESA and its challenged provisions. The government appealed to the Supreme Court.

One of the broad issues embodied in this suit is whether habitat protection for listed species is a legitimate legal enforcement tool under the ESA. Underlying it is the use of the word "harm" in considering whether the ESA has been violated under the definition of a "take," which is illegal under the regulations implementing this law. The list definition of "take" includes: to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture or collect.

A question arises: does the cutting of timber in old growth forests – the owl's preferred habitat and the timber industry's preferred source of high-revenue timber – and the consequent diminution of the owl's habitat constitute "harm" to the owl's survival and is thus a "take" under the ESA? The court's decision will be handed down in the coming summer. If the "harm" element is overturned in the decision, there is only a slim chance that it will be retained during the upcoming reauthorization. If

this worst-case scenario becomes reality, the most powerful arrow in the quiver of ESA enforcement will have been lost.

The last major Supreme Court test of the ESA occurred in the late 1970's, only a few years after the law's enactment. This case centered on the endangered snail darter's survival pitted against the continued construction, in Tennessee, of the Tellico dam. The Supreme Court ruling in favor of the snail darter was overturned by the convening of the so-called "God Squad," the nickname for the Endangered Species Committee. A cabinet-level group of five and empowered under the ESA, the committee allowed the dam construction to continue. It is ironic, seventeen years later, that several species of snail darters still survive while the heavy freighter travel on the impounded river has failed to materialize and the enterprise is in financial difficulty.



As Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay, Barbara Britten provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist represented on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

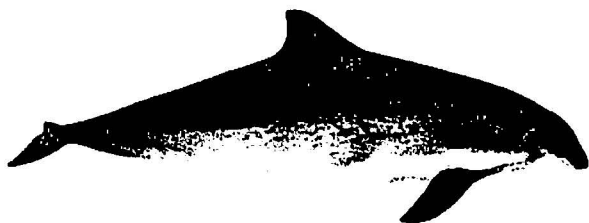
Harbor Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) Concentrations: A Reflection of Greater Fish and Cephalopod Abundance in Northern Monterey Bay?

...by Barbie Byrd Odom

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Abstract

The goal of this project is to determine if dense concentrations of *Phocoena phocoena* (harbor porpoise) off Sunset Beach State Park, Monterey Bay, California (SBSP) are due to greater numbers of their main prey items in that area. Their diet consists mainly of *Engraulis mordax* (northern anchovy), *Loligo opalescens* (market squid), *Sebastes* sp. (Rockfishes), and *Chilara taylori* (spotted cusk-eel). The objectives of this study are to: 1) define areas of greatest harbor porpoise concentration off Sunset Beach State Park, 2) determine if abundance of prey and harbor porpoise are re-



lated, 3) test whether topography is related to aggregations of harbor porpoise prey, and 4) update stomach content data of harbor porpoises in Monterey Bay. Abundance estimates of harbor porpoises will be obtained from boat surveys and various techniques (net trawls and hydroacoustics) will be used to determine prey distribution and abundance. It is expected that the area off SBSP will have greater numbers of harbor porpoise and an increased abundance of primary harbor porpoise prey than other areas in northern Monterey Bay. This study will be one of few studies that directly relates prey to the distribution and abundance of an odontocete. Results may provide insight into factors affecting harbor porpoise distribution and have applications to commercial and recreational fishing.

MAY 1995

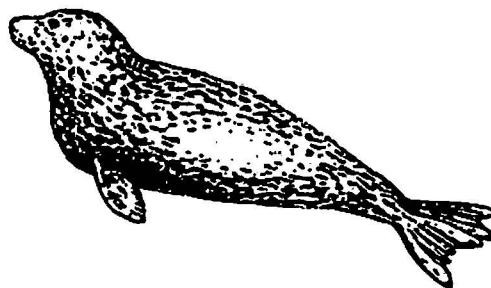
Behavioral Comparisons Between Wild and Rehabilitated Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) Pups Off the Central California Coast

...by Michelle Lander

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Abstract

The harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*) has a prolonged pupping season, which begins during late March and peaks during early May. Pups suckle for four to six weeks and are weaned when they weigh approximately 24 kg. Dispersal behavior of newly weaned pups is unknown. Furthermore, there is limited information regarding behaviors of newly weaned rehabilitated pups that are released back into the wild. The purpose of this study is to compare survival, movements, dive patterns, activity patterns, habitat utilization, and health status among weaned wild pups captured at Pebble Beach, California, and rehabilitated full-term pups, and rehabilitated premature pups, released from The Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito, California. Harbor seal pups will be tagged with head-mounted radio transmitters so that location and activities of individual pups can be monitored for approximately six months. To determine the health status of all pups, blood samples will be collected from pups for biochemistry profiles. Although preliminary data collected for a pilot study during the 1994 pupping season indicated mean dive duration was similar between wild and rehabilitated pups ($t=1.02$, $P>0.05$), I predict this statistic will change during the 1995 pupping season because the study will be extended for six months. Data will be used to determine if rehabilitated pups are capable of integrating with the wild population. Furthermore, data will be used to determine the success of The Marine Mammal Center's rehabilitation program.



Marine Mammal Sightings: March 26–April 25, 1995

...compiled by **Richard Ternullo**

The arrival of brisk spring winds have been associated with sea surface temperatures as low as 10 C° (50 F°). Significant horizontal and vertical mixing seem evident from strong temperature fronts and decreasing water clarity.

No humpback whales were present during this reporting period despite the abundance of northern anchovy within the bay. However, late reports from the Farallon Islands indicate that there is some movement of humpbacks to feeding grounds in central California.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Minkewhale			
3/27	1	3 mi. SW Cypress Point	MBW
4/22	2	0.5 mi. S Lighthouse Point	TZ
Killer whale			
3/31	1	2 mi. SW Cypress Point	LO
4/24	7	from Pigeon Point	BS
4/24	12-15	8 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	RT
May have been killing pinnipeds during the morning and the previous day. Possibly within sighting distance of Long Marine Lab			
Bottlenose dolphin			
3/26	10-12	Carmel Beach	AB
3/29	20-30	off Monterey Beach Hotel	NL
4/23	4-5	Inshore from Soquel Point to Capitola	CL
Long-beaked common dolphin			
3/26	500	3.5 mi. W Point Joe	NLF
3/27	1000	6 mi. SW Point Pinos	MBW
3/29	2000	3 mi. W Point Joe	LO
4/3	100-200	10 mi. SW Point Pinos	RT
4/20	500	5.5 mi. SE Santa Cruz	RT
Common dolphin sp.			
4/7	15-20	1.5 mi. W Point Joe	RO
4/14	2000	2 mi. W Point Pinos	BL
4/21	300	0.5 mi. W Soberanes Point	NB
Risso's dolphin			
3/27	8-10	1 mi. S Cypress Point	DR
3/29	15-20	2 mi. W Point Joe	LO
3/29	7-8	6 mi. W Point Pinos	RT
3/29	15-20	4 mi. NW Point Pinos	CD
One possible albino type.			
3/31	15-20	4.5 mi. NW Point Sur	JW
3/31	40-50	4 mi. SW Cypress Point	RT
4/7	5-6	3.5 mi. SW Point Pinos	RT
4/14	20-30	8.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT
4/14	8-10	7.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
4/20	8-10	8 mi. NW Point Pinos	NL
4/21	20-40	8.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	JW
4/23	200	10 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	BL
Associated with 10-15 Pacific white-sided dolphins			
4/23	10-15	5 mi. N Lovers Point	WW
Dall's porpoise			
3/27	10-15	3 mi. W Cypress Point	WW
4/4	4-5	7 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
4/5	20	4 mi. NW Point Pinos	LO
4/6	2-3	8 mi. SW Moss Landing	RT

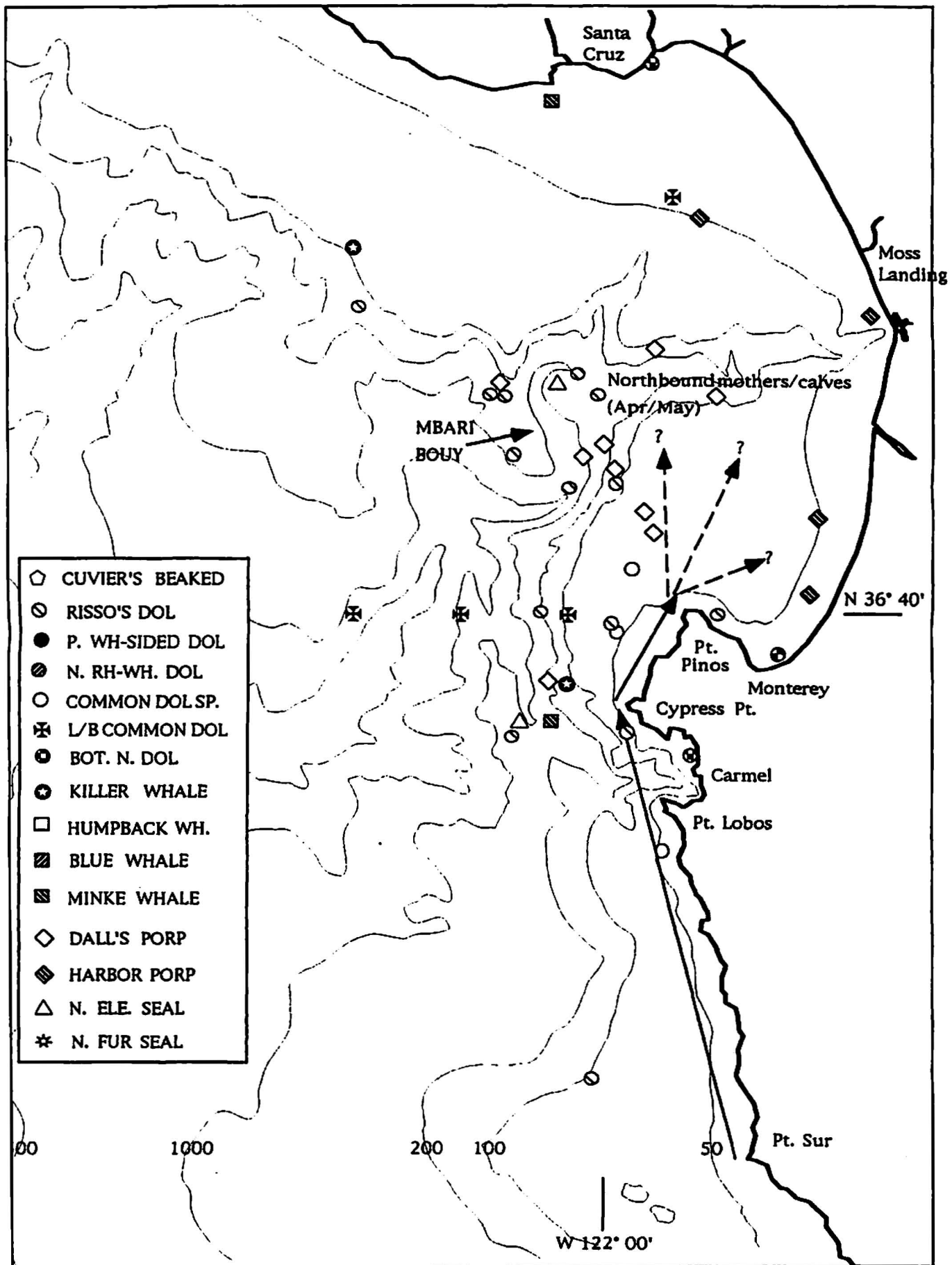
Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Dall's porpoise (con't)			
4/11	10	5 mi. NW Point Pinos	WW
4/11	2-4	8.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT
4/13	2	6.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	MBW
4/23	4-5	7.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
4/24	2	8 mi. W Moss Landing	RT
Harbor porpoise			
4/10	2-4	1.5 mi. W N boundary marker Ft. Ord	RT
4/12	2	1.5 mi. W Soldier's Club	RT
4/17	2	2 mi. W Salinas River	RT
4/20	2	4 mi. W Sunset State Beach	RT
4/20	2	1.5 mi. NW Moss Landing	RT
Northern elephant seal			
3/27	1	3 mi. SW Cypress Point	RT
4/6	1	9 mi. SW Moss Landing	RT
California sea lion			
There are about 200-300 in and around Monterey Harbor. A variable number of up to 100 are again using the breakwater as a haulout. Brandt's cormorants are taking advantage of the situation and have constructed about ten nests on the vacant rocks.			
Harbor seals			
Can be seen at low tide from Monterey Harbor to Point Lobos along and rocky shore and in Elkhorn Slough.			
Southern (California) Sea Otter			
They are seen in Monterey Harbor and along the coast associated with kelp beds.			

Key to observers:

AB=A. Baldrige; NB=N. Black;
 CD=C. Dennie; NL=N. Lemmon;
 CL=C. Lyons; BL=B. Lucas;
 NLF=National Loon Fund;
 MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch
 LO=L. Oliver; RO=R. Ortiz;
 BS=B. Sauppe; RT=R. Ternullo;
 DR=D. Rookard;
 JW=J. Williamson;
 WW=W. Williamson



Soundings



MAY 1995

Monterey Sportfishing's Support for ACS Continues

At our March chapter meeting, President Jo Guerrero gave plaques and Monterey Bay Aquarium tickets to Monterey Sportfishing Manager Angelo Shake, Magnum Force Skipper Leon Oliver and crew member A.J. Young in appreciation for their continued support. Monterey Sportfishing has provided discounted whale watch trips for chapter education programs and free trips for chapter benefits; Skipper Leon and crew member A.J. have generously donated their time on these benefit trips.



Left to right: A.J. Young, Jo Guerrero, Leon Oliver, and Angelo Shake.

ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter Awards \$1,600 in Research Grants

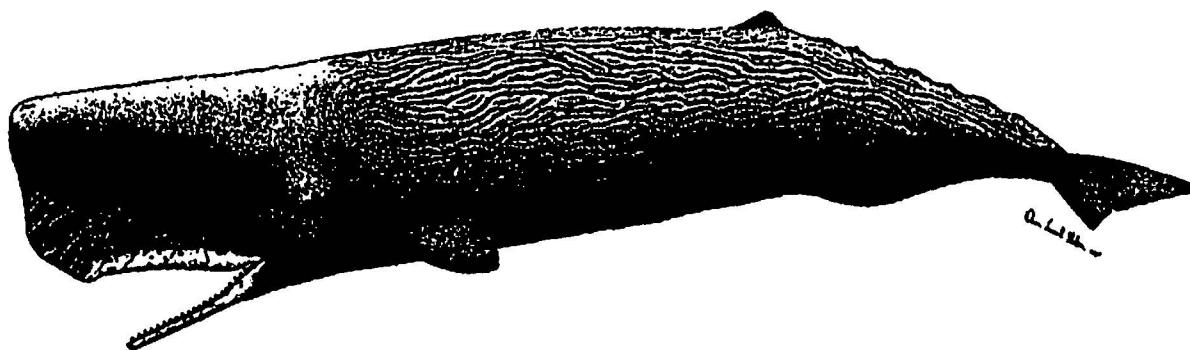
Our ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter awards research grants each year to student researchers studying local marine mammals in the Monterey Bay area. This year we were able to award three grants totaling \$1,600. The 1995 award winners are Barbie Byrd Odom and Michelle Lander, both from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (see abstracts on p. 3), and David Levenson from UCSC Long Marine Laboratory. Winners were carefully selected based upon research proposals submitted to the ACS/MB award selection committee outlining the structure and goals of their research projects. Award winners were selected based upon these proposals and the value that committee members felt the projects might provide to furthering our knowledge and understanding of marine mammals in the Monterey Bay area. Congratulations!



Chapter Thanks

ACS Monterey Bay gratefully acknowledges the generous donation recently received from the estate of Mary Catherine Palmer. We can think of no better way to show our thanks than to use her support to help others understand and appreciate marine mammals. Therefore, these funds will be used to support our research, education and conservation programs. For example, \$500 has been designated for a 1995 research grant award to a local graduate student studying marine mammals (see grant awards p. 3).





Welcome to New Member

The ACS\Monterey Bay Chapter is pleased to welcome our new member Barry Boyce of Galapagos Travel in San Juan Bautista.

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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
JUNE 1995

June 1995 Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, June 29, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Nicole Crane, Hopkins Marine Station and Oceanic Society Expeditions

Topic: The Dolphins and Coral Reefs of Turneffe Atoll, Belize – data for managing a fragile lagoon ecosystem

In 1992 Oceanic Society Expeditions (San Francisco) began a long-term study of a population of 100-200 bottlenose dolphins, of the coastal form, which inhabit this very large atoll lagoon in the Caribbean



30-40 miles east of the world famous barrier reef of Belize. Three graduate students, together with teams of volunteer participants conduct photo-identification, acoustic and behavioral studies, which also involve work on human impacts on these dolphins.

Forty-five dolphins, individually identified, have so far been catalogued. Atlantic spotted dolphins and spinners inhabit the nearby ocean waters. Human impacts on the reef include nutrient run-off. Although the area is still considered pristine, Belize is undergoing considerable development pressures with its rapidly growing popularity as an ecotourism destination. This study of dolphins and the reef ecosystem will assist Belize in the development of a coastal zone management plan for the area.

Nicole will describe the Oceanic Society Belize program in which ACS members may participate. Her program will be illustrated by slides. By way of background she studied gray whale vocalization in Monterey Bay for her Moss Landing Marine Laboratories Master's Degree, teaches at Monterey Peninsula College and is very active in organizing volunteer divers to conduct sub-tidal biodiversity surveys within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. She is Dive Officer at Hopkins Marine Station.



JUN 19 1995

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California Coastal Commission Review ATOC Project Permit

...by **Barbara Britten**

The Acoustic Thermometry of Ocean Climate (ATOC) Project, the necessary permits for which are still pending, is now under consideration before the state's Coastal Commission. A subject of considerable controversy over the last eighteen months and still subject to more modifications before all the permits are decided on by federal and state agencies, ATOC's "go" or "no go" will be decided in the next couple of months or less.

Federal laws require that many kinds of permits must comply and be consistent with all applicable state laws and regulations; in this case, the California Coastal Management Program, the Coastal Act and the Environmental Quality Act. The Commission recently published a "Staff Report and Recommendation on Combined Consistency and Coastal Development Permit Application" in which the project's scope is outlined. As is well known by now, the federal Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management refused to grant the permit previously scheduled to be within the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary. The site now under review is offshore from Half Moon Bay. The sound source will be 48 miles out to sea on Pioneer Seamount and will be connected by cable to installations at Pillar Point Air Force Tracking Station. The source will be at 980 meters (over 3,000 feet) in depth and is about 25 miles southwest of the Farallons.

The above-cited report mentions mitigation measures that have been added to the project since it was first proposed, including a "ramp-up period" providing for a gradual increase in the dB level up to 195 db rather than starting "full blast." The report notes: "despite these measures, concerns

over marine resource impacts remain. The issue before the Commission is whether or not these commitments and protection measures are adequate to protect marine resources. This is not an easy issue to resolve, given how little is currently known about marine animal response to sound, combined with the difficulty of monitoring these responses." (p. 3)

The Commission report also quotes a letter from the CA Dept. of Fish and Game commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report. "The Department concurs with the evaluation that the potential for physically harmful effects to aquatic organisms is not significant and not likely to occur. However, it does appear that adequate data are provided to support a finding that aquatic organisms would be exposed to sound levels that have previously elicited avoidance behavioral responses. It also suggests that there is a potential to mask and/or interfere with long-distance communication or echolocation by whales should communication coincide with periods of sound transmission."

The current schedule for the proposed project calls for the six-month preliminary Marine Mammal Research Project (MMRP) to commence on July 1. This limited testing of the acoustical system's effects on marine mammals will include wide deployment of personnel and equipment to document observable impacts on the animals' physiology and behavior. It is unlikely that this schedule can be met since the Coastal Commission has scheduled a public hearing on June 15 in Carmel, after which the Commission must still make its decision.

As Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay, Barbara Britten provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist represented on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

Visual Sensitivity In Three Pinniped Species

...by David H. Levenson

University of California at Santa Cruz

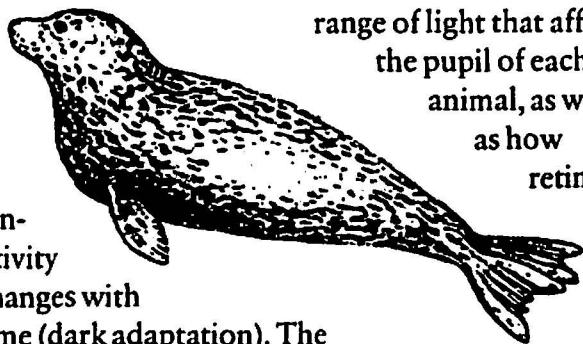
ABSTRACT

The northern elephant seal dives to extreme depths, where light levels are near zero, in order to forage. Anatomical evidence suggests that the elephant seal is a visual predator, although to date there has been no investigation into the perceptual capabilities of this animal. In fact, relatively little is known about the vision of marine mammals, in general. Psycho-physical techniques will be used to document the visual capacity of three local pinniped species: Northern elephant seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*), Pacific harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*), and California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*). A pupillometric procedure will be

used to describe the intensity range of light that affects the pupil of each animal, as well as how retinal

sensitivity changes with

time (dark adaptation). The absolute visual sensitivity of each animal will then be determined using a trained response technique. These psychophysical datum will be supplemented with descriptions of retinæ obtained from local dead stranded pinnipeds and cetaceans. Correlations of visual sensitivity with retinal morphology in tested species will provide information about the function of the retina in marine mammals. Extrapolation from these comparisons will provide insight in to the visual sensitivity of other marine mammals (e.g. larger cetaceans that cannot be tested in captivity). Differences in visual sensitivity will describe how each animal has adapted to meet the needs of its own ecological niche, a primary consideration in phylogenetic categorization



(Harvey & Pagel, 1991). Furthermore, comparisons between species of morphology and sensitivity will help clarify the somewhat unclear cladistic relationships between many pinniped and cetacean taxa. Most important-ly, these experiments will conclusively determine whether pinnipeds are capable of being visual predators. This evidence will be beneficial to a number of scientific disciplines including (sensory) ecology, physiology, comparative biology, as well as in marine mammal conservation issues.

August Monterey Bay ACS Chapter Whale Watch Trip Coming Up!

Our Chapter's annual fall whale watch boat trip has just been scheduled for Saturday, August 12th from 8am-3pm. Once again we will spend the day on board a chartered boat from Monterey Sportfishing in search of blue whales, humpback whales and a host of other whales, dolphins and other marine mammals which are likely to occur in the Monterey Bay area at this time of year. We have had GREAT luck the last few years (even those of us with short memories can recall the hundreds of common dolphins with calves which surrounded our boat as the grand finale last year!) and look forward to another adventure under the

(continued on page 7)

Robert D. Bethel Award Winner

Barbie Byrd Odom was the recipient of the very special ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter Robert D. Bethel Award for her research proposal "Harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) concentrations: A reflection of greater fish and cephalopod abundance in northern Monterey Bay?" (which appeared in our May 1995 issue). This is a special award made possible due to the generous endowment made in his name by his wife following his death. Mr. Bethel was a long-time citizen of the Monterey Peninsula and an active supporter and participant in the ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter.

Marine Mammal Sightings: April 26 – May 25, 1995

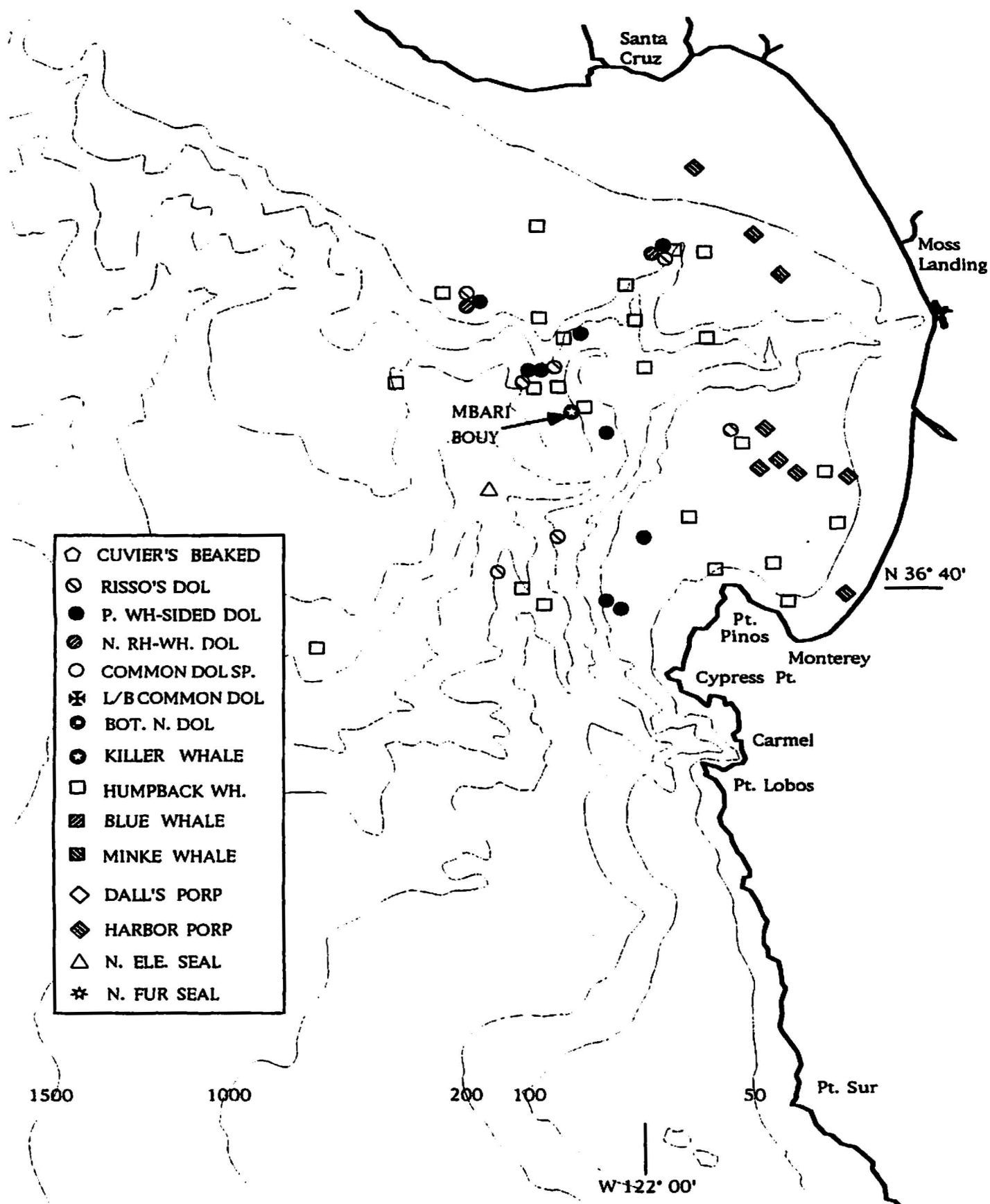
...compiled by *Richard Ternullo*

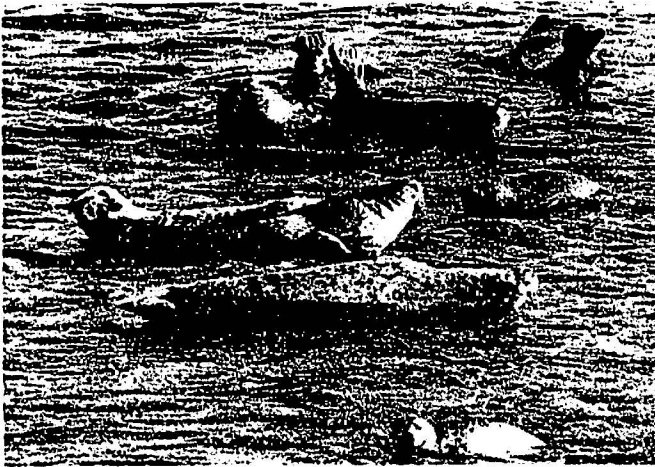
There have been periodic strong northwesterly winds and associated periods of apparent upwellings. Humpback whales are present in numbers and one should look for them from the usual points along Hwy. 1 from Point Lobos to Hurricane Point.

A notable non-sighting for the month was the lack of any common dolphin sightings, and only one sighting of Dall's porpoise. Best fish of the month was a Longnosed Lancetfish on May 17 aboard the Lethal Weapon.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Northern right whale			
5/3	1	1 mi. off Pont Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo County	NMFS
This observation of a southbound individual represents the fourteenth reliable sighting in California since 1900. Population estimates for the entire North Pacific are one to three hundred, and may not be sufficient to prevent extirpation. This whale also breached.			
Humpback whale			
Seen nearly every day from Point Sur to Davenport in groups of up to 8-10 individuals, mostly near canyon edges, and particularly near Soquel Canyon. Humpback whales have also been seen from shore at Lovers Point and off Point Lobos, so scanning from the usual points along Hwy 1 should be productive for shore observers. They are feeding on krill, northern anchovy, and possibly on young pacific sardine.			
Gray whale			
5/12	2	In surf off Monterey Beach Hotel	NL
5/19	1	Pescadero Point	BH
5/20	2	3.5 mi. NW Moss Landing	FO
Killer whale			
4/28	6	4.5 mi. SW Santa Cruz	EP
Observed eating and playing with the carcass of an unidentified pinniped.			
5/5	12-14	0.75 mi. S. Point Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo County	WP
Several female-types, including two mother/calf pairs, in the early morning feeding on the carcass of a calf or yearling gray whale. Later that evening, 6-7 males(!) fed from the carcass after the others had fed for several hours. This appears to be a kill and not a scavenging event as blood was observed in the water.			
5/6	8-10	Next to MBARI bouy	HN
Risso's dolphin			
4/28	40-50	7.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
4/30	20-40	3.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	HN
5/6	15-20	8.5 mi. WSW Santa Cruz	RT
With four Pacific white-sided dolphins			
5/15	3-400	6 mi. S Santa Cruz	JeW
Associated with 8-10 humpback whales, 5-800 Pacific white-sided dolphins, and 12 northern right whale dolphins.			
5/18	25-30	6 mi. SW Point Pinos	UCSC
Pacific white-sided dolphin			
4/29	200	4.5 mi. W Bixby Creek	HN
4/29	100	Carmel Bay	HN
5/3	7-8	2.5 mi. W Asilomar Beach	WW
5/6	4-500	3.5 mi. WNW Point Pinos	RT
5/11	50-60	3 mi. W Seal Rocks	RT

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Pacific white-sided dolphin (con't)			
5/15	200	3 mi. W Point Joe	JW
5/17	1-200	Near MBARI bouy	LS
5/18	75-100	9 mi. S Santa Cruz	JW
Along with unknown numbers of Pacific white-sided dolphin			
5/20	500	9 mi. S Santa Cruz	UCSC
Associated with one humpback whale, 20-40 northern right whale dolphin, 200 Risso's dolphin, and California sea lions.			
Dall's porpoise			
4/29	4	8 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT
5/8	8-9	1 mi. W Point Pinos	SHJ
Harbor porpoise			
4/30	7-8	3 mi. W Salinas Rivers	RT
4/30	4-5	3.5 mi. W Marina State Beach	RT
5/3	2+2	3 mi. W Soldier's Club	WH
5/7	4-5	12.5 mi. W Seaside city limit	RT
5/10	4-6	2.5 mi. W Marina State Beach	RT
5/18	2	4 mi. W Sunset State Beach	RT
5/18	4+2	3 mi. W Pajaro River	RT
5/18	2	4 mi. W Salinas River	HN
5/19	2+3	4 mi. W Salinas River	USCS
Northern elephant seal			
5/18	1	6 mi. WNW Point Pinos	UCSC
Northern fur seal			
4/29	1	7.5 mi. SW Santa Cruz	NL
California sea lion			
Increasing numbers of yearlings and migrants from the north have entered the Bay. Young sea lions favor the wooden portion of the Monterey breakwater and adults continue to boycott the rock portion, preferring to haulout on boats or barges within the harbor.			
Harbor seal			
Seen along the shore from Monterey Harbor to Point Lobos, and Elkhorn Slough.			
Southern (California) Sea Otter			
Seen almost anywhere along the coast from Monterey Harbor south along the coast associated with or without kelp beds, and in Elkhorn Slough.			
Key to observers:			
BH=B. Hauptman; NL=N. Lemon; JL=J. Lewis; CM=C. Millicin; HN=H. Neece; NMFS=National Marine Fisheries Service; FO=F. O'Sullivan; WP=W. Perryman; EP=E. Pieracci; SHJ=Shearwater Journeys; LS=L. Schumacher; RT=R. Ternullo; UCSC=UC Santa Cruz Marine Mammal class; WH=Watsonville High School; JeW=Je. Williams (Cabrillo College Marine Science), JW=J. Williamson; WW=W. Williamson.			





1995 Annual Harbor Seal Count at Cypress Pt. and Fanshell Bay

...by Bob Huettmann

On May 1, 1995 at 3:00 PM, just after high tide, I started the census between Cypress Point Lookout and Seal Rock. The weather, tide, and surf conditions were perfect. Until 1993 I had only counted pups, but when the count was shockingly down I recounted a week later and counted adults and juveniles also. I wish now that I had counted adults in past years. It might have been easier to come up

with a reason for the drop in pup numbers in 1993. Below are the results and comparisons to previous years. The numbers are for pups/adults/juveniles. Of the 277 adults, at least twelve on the beaches were males and probably all 13 on Seal Rock were males as this is a primary haulout site for local males all year.

	<u>Cypress Point Lookout</u>	<u>Cypress Point Golf</u>	<u>South Fanshell Outer</u>	<u>South Fanshell Inner</u>	<u>Seal Rock</u>	<u>Totals</u>
4/30/87	20	40	3	10	N/C	73
4/25/88	19	51	19	8	3	100
4/26/89	29	33	31	8	14	115
4/27/90	31	37	32	10	14	124
4/29/91	33	34	49	22	4	142
4/30/92	37	48	47	18	3	153
4/30/93	31	15	40	12	2	100
5/6/93	36/43/6	11/30/3	46/98/9	15/41/5	0/2/0	108/214/23
4/29/94	33/36/7	25/44/6	47/79/14	20/21/2	3/23/5	128/203/34
5/1/95	40/67/7	44/63/8	72/113/18	11/21/5	0/13/4	167/277/42
% change of pups from 1994	+21.2	+76.0	+53.2	-45.0	--	+30.5

(continued from page 3)

guidance of our own ACS naturalists. Please call us for more information and to make your advance reservations – the sooner the better, as space is limited to the number of people we can comfortably take on board. All profit from this annual benefit event will be used to support our chapter's research, education and conservation programs.

When: Saturday, August 12, 1995, 8am-3pm.

Where: Monterey Sportfishing Dock at
Monterey Fishermen's Wharf #1.

Cost: \$40 / ACS Members, \$50 / non-members.
For reservations or more information - please call
after 3 pm: Debbie at 373-4281 or Jo at 633-2956.

Cruise With the Oceanic Society to the Farallon Islands Beginning in June

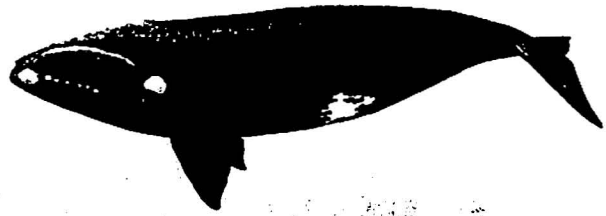
Beginning next month, Oceanic Society Expeditions will conduct day cruises led by naturalists to the Farallon Islands. The islands lie 27 miles west of San Francisco and are a designated United Nations Biosphere Reserve.

The area is a major feeding ground for 23 species of marine mammals, including endangered humpback and blue whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions and sharks. Additionally, the islands offer nesting sites for hundreds of thousands of sea birds, making the area the largest sea bird rookery in the contiguous United States.

Oceanic Society Expeditions, a nonprofit environmental education and research group, offers trips every weekend, from June – November, featuring informal talks by expert naturalists aboard a 50-foot Coast Guard-certified motor vessel.

Cruises depart from San Francisco on Saturdays, Sundays and selected Fridays and Mondays, May 27 through November.

Cost is \$58/person (Saturdays/Sundays); \$49/person (Fridays/Mondays). Reservations are required and can be made by calling (415) 474-3385.



Rare Right Whale Sighted Off Central Coast

Biologists at the National Marine Fisheries Service said the sighting May 3 about a mile off the beach at Point Piedras Blancas near San Simeon represents only the 14th reliable right whale observation in California waters since 1990.

"There have been so few, each sighting is such a rare event," said James Carretta, a NMFS fisheries biologist at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center at La Jolla. "When you're dealing with a population that may be as low as 100 animals, seeing one animal is a pretty incredible thing."

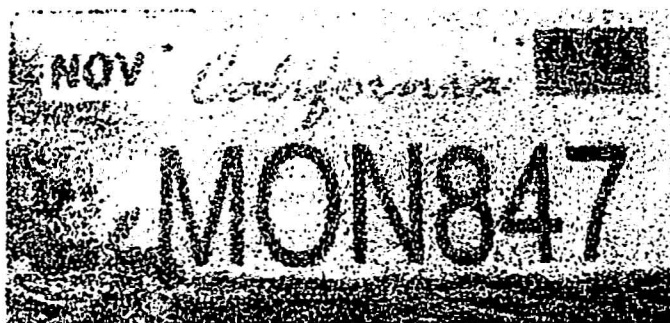
Excerpt from article in Monterey County Herald by John D. Cox, May 10, 1995.

Sea Otters Flock to Elkhorn Slough during the 1995 Floods

Sea otter counts jumped during the flood. Possibly because of the coincidental storms off-shore, there were over 50 otters in the Slough after the highest flood waters. This is the greatest number of sea otters ever noted in Elkhorn Slough, and they have since declined to around 20 individuals.

Excerpt from *Slough News* (Newsletter of Elkhorn Slough docents).





New Otter Design License Plate Will Benefit the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

The frolicking, whiskered sea otter may soon be taking to the highways as official ambassador of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

An otter design is the winner in a contest to create a California license plate commemorating the sanctuary and helping to raise money for the world's largest marine preserve.

More than 130 people from as far as Los Angeles and Seattle and ranging in age from 8 to 80 submitted designs for the contest, which offered a \$1,000 first prize award.

Sanctuary plates will cost \$50, and personalized versions will cost \$90. At least 5,000 people must order the plates by the end of the year for the Department of Motor Vehicles to begin producing them in 1996.

The law by state Senator Henry Mello, D-Gilroy, that made the plates possible provides that half of the proceeds will pay for education about the sanctuary. Programs will include materials for schoolchildren, signs along the coast and an annual public conference about the preserve.

The rest of the money will go to the state's environmental license plate fund, which raises \$2.5 million a year to protect endangered species habitat.

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary was designated in 1992 and spans 400 miles of shoreline from San Francisco to San Simeon. It bans oil drilling and protects 27 species of marine mammals, 94 kinds of seabirds and more than 350 types of fish.

Excerpt from an article in the San Jose Mercury News by John Woolfolk, June 6, 1995.

Washington State Indian Tribe Claims Right to Resume Whaling Under 1855 Treaty

The children of this Indian village at the far western edge of the continent struggle with usual demons of modern life – drugs, alcohol and violent videos among them. And like parents everywhere, Makah tribal members say that a return to old-fashioned values might be just the thing to bring their youths around.

But in this case, tradition means going out in fierce Pacific Ocean swells to chase and kill gray whales, which have not been hunted legally in American waters for more than 40 years.

Citing an 1855 treaty that makes them the only Indian nation with whale-hunting rights guaranteed by the federal government, the Makah have announced plans to kill up to five whales every spring, beginning next year.

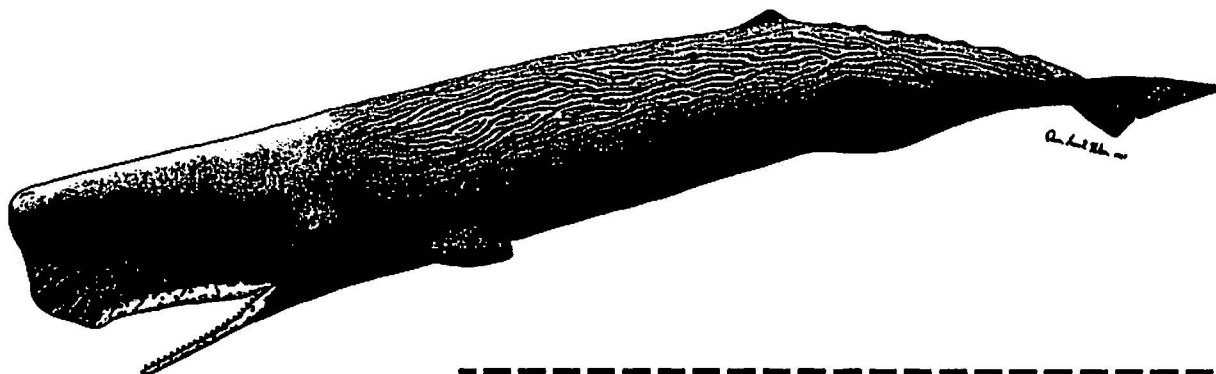
The Makah say there is an important distinction between their proposal and commercial whaling. The Indians want to take whales for subsistence and ceremonial purposes, not as part of a commercial operation. But opponents say that it smacks of hypocrisy to allow one group of people to hunt whales as an indigenous right, but to condemn others claiming the same right – as do those in Iceland and Norway, for example.

There are about 21,000 gray whales – the highest number in nearly a century – according to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Last year, they were taken off the federal endangered species list.

Taking five whales, the Makah argue, would not dent the population. The government agrees, but has yet to sanction the hunt. Among other things, State Department officials are worried about setting a precedent.

The Makah, who have held to this rugged corner of the Olympic Peninsula for nearly 2,000 years, would prefer that they not get enmeshed in environmental politics or international disputes. A return to whaling is simply a way to bring back a sense of cultural cohesion for the young, they say.

Excerpt from an article by Timothy Egan in the San Jose Mercury News, June 4, 1995



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Jerry Loomis	Route 1, Box 62	Carmel 93923	625-2120
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Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-7676 (h), 647-4864 (w)
Tom Williams	23810 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel 93923	375-5570

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Type of Membership, Annual Dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign	\$45
		<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25

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Return to: Membership Secretary, ACS Monterey Bay Chapter,
514 Beaumont Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

SOUNDINGS

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Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
JULY 1995

July 1995 Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, July 27, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Lisa Cheney, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Topic: California Sea Otters – factors affecting their recovery

Otters in California declined from nearly 18,000 to approximately 30-50 individuals within the span of the nineteenth century, as a result of relentless hunting. Recovery from that low point, a "population bottleneck", may have been restrained by a reduction in genetic variability or fitness among the survivors. Such events can often serve to increase

inbreeding and decrease population growth rates. Other factors potentially limiting population growth may be increased predation and/or decreased prey availability.

Our speaker has studied the amount of genetic variation found among California sea otters, comparing DNA from early museum specimen material and

current samples. She has also made comparisons with Alaskan sea otters, whose numbers have shown a much higher rate of increase than those of California. Lisa is a graduate student at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. Both ACS/ Monterey Bay and the Earl and Ethel Myers Trust for Marine Biology, Pebble Beach have supported her research. Please join us for fascinating insights in to the biology of these "icons of ecotourism."



Endangered Species Act; Tuna/Dolphin and the IATTC:

...by **Barbara Britten**

BULLETIN: A landmark, but possibly short-lived, 6-3 decision, was just handed down by the Supreme Court. It reaffirmed the implementing language in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) which held that harm to the habitat of threatened or endangered species on private as well as public lands constitutes a violation of the ACT (see "Supreme Court Ponders Endangered ..." in *Soundings* May 1995 issue). This very important decision will undoubtedly spur increased activity by the "private property rights" and "Wise Use" forces in Congress to repeal, among many other important provisions in the law, this part of the ESA. Senator Slade Gorton (R, WA) has included deletion of the "harm" provision in a draft new version of ESA legislation. Environmental and conservation groups, pleased by this decision, may be re-energized in their efforts to prevent the ESA from being weakened or rendered toothless.

In mid-June, the 55th Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) convened in La Jolla, the U.S. being the host country this year. As in recent years, it was dominated by impassioned rhetoric focused on the majority of the participating government representatives' fervently-held beliefs that the U.S. is acting unfairly and unilaterally in continuing to insist on conformance with the embargo and "dolphin-safe" provisions in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Many of these countries have been exerting increasing pressure on the U.S. to repeal the embargo provision and to revise and re-write the "dolphin-safe" language.

Underlying the entire meeting was everyone's realization that the following week would bring, in Washington, the long-delayed hearing before the House Resource Committee's Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans on this very issue, tuna/dolphin and the MMPA. Most attendees also knew that a bill, drafted by Rep. Randy Cunningham (R, 51st Dist., CA), with "advice" from

Mexican officials, would be introduced sometime after these hearings. To no one's surprise, the IATTC agreed to postpone decisions on its response to the hearing and any new legislation until a special meeting to be convened in July or August. (That timetable will likely slip.) A second special meeting, as happened last year, will be held in October. Its task will be to set the annual dolphin mortality quota for 1996 in the ETP for all member nations' fleets. The postponement is justified by the absence of sufficient data on this year's boat performance and adherence to its quotas, as well as to other objectives in the IATTC's 1992 La Jolla Agreement.

Almost everyone in attendance at this meeting was taken by surprise when Dr. Michael Tillman, head of the four-commissioner U.S. delegation, made a brief statement announcing that at the ten-upcoming House hearing, the U.S. would officially request that the embargo provisions of the MMPA be removed. While welcomed somewhat cautiously by some of the Commissioners, it was generally agreed that this step is only "half a loaf," because the embargoes are inherently connected to the "dolphin-safe" provisions and so repealing the embargoes does no good without addressing also the latter. Many environmental groups have expressed opposition to any change in the language covering the "dolphin-safe" issue, while some others might support some changes in such language.

The IATTC has survived another round of meetings, but its future is by no means certain. There were some faintly veiled threats to make an attempt to create another body more to the liking of the countries that feel so strongly about their perception of U.S. hegemony in the IATTC. Budget deficits in the U.S. and the possibility of major reorganization in the State Department create further uncertainty. As they say: "Stay tuned."

As Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay, Barbara Britten provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist represented on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

New Proposed Fishing Rules Aimed to Reduce Killings of Marine Mammals

Fishermen who accidentally kill or injure marine mammals will have to report to federal authorities within two days of returning to port instead of annually under new rules proposed last week. The proposed change is among several aimed at reducing the number of seals, sea lions and other marine mammals killed by fishing nets to insignificant levels by the end of the century. "The bottom line is we hope to better target those fisheries with the most interaction with marine mammals," said National Marine Fisheries Service spokesman Gordon Helm.

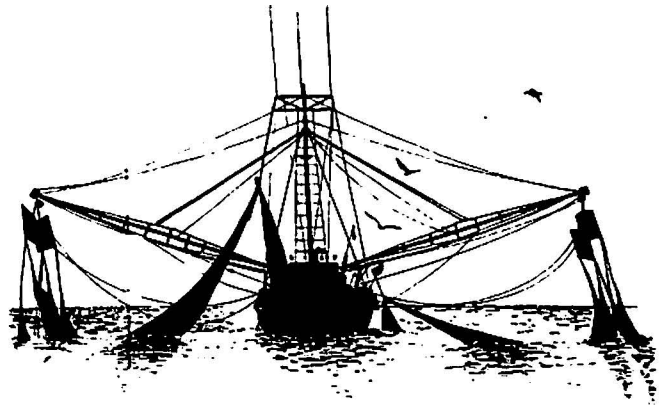


Regulations since 1988 require fishermen once a year to submit a daily log of marine mammals injured or killed during fishing operations. Under the proposed changes, which would take effect September 1, fishermen will no

longer have to keep a daily log, but they will have to report mammals killed or injured within 48 hours of returning to port.

Congress mandated tougher rules when it reauthorized the Marine Mammal Protection Act last year. Among changes already in place, fishermen may no longer shoot marine mammals that are stealing their catch.

Other proposed changes would rank commercial fisheries by the numbers of mammals they kill. Existing rules tally the number of animals killed per boat. A new rule would consider the percentage of the mammal population affected by each particular fishery. The purpose is to help wardens focus on fisheries that pose the greatest risk to marine mammals. West Coast fisheries believed to be most



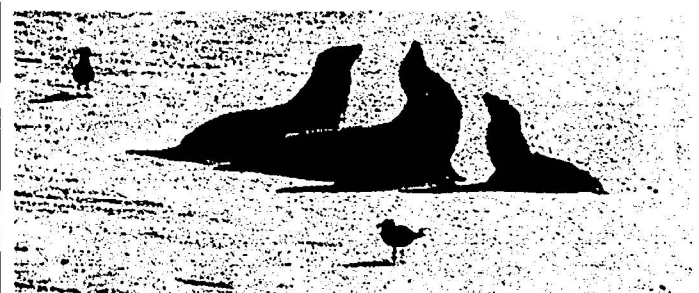
harmful to marine mammals are halibut, swordfish, and shark (angel, blue and thresher) according to National Marine Fisheries Service reports. On the West Coast, the Steller sea lion is most at risk according to Kristi Hanni, director of science at the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. The number of these animals have dropped 70 percent in 30 years to fewer than 1,700.

East Coast fisheries have had the biggest impact on marine mammal populations. The Atlantic bottlenose dolphin and the harbor porpoise have been so hard hit that they have become candidates for the endangered species list.

The National Marine Fisheries Service will accept public comments on the proposed changes through July 31. Letters may be sent to:

Chief, Marine Mammal Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Md 20910-3226

(Source: San Jose Mercury News story, July 5, 1995)



Marine Mammal Sightings: May 26 – June 25, 1995

...compiled by **Richard Ternullo**

Strong features associated with upwelling conditions have contributed to the concentration of humpback whales and chinook salmon. They are feeding primarily on northern anchovy. Thermal gradients are in a range from 16.5°C to as low as 9°C in a 30 km horizontal distance from Monterey

harbor to north of Santa Cruz. The most unusual sighting of a marine mammal has been of an anomalously pigmented humpback whale dubbed "Pinkie" because a coating of orange-pink fungus(?) along the dorsal surface of the whale is very distinctive.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
------	------------	----------	----------

Humpbackwhale

There are thirty-eight observations of up to twenty individuals from Carmel Bay to Soquel Canyon. There is also a considerable number of whales near the Davenport/Pigeon Point region.

Minkewhale

6/2	1	next to Point Pinos bouy	JW
6/18	1	2 mi. N. of Lovers Point	RT

Graywhale

6/11	1	north of Davenport	JD
------	---	--------------------	----

Killer whale

6/12	2	near MBARI bouy	JW
------	---	-----------------	----

Risso's dolphin

5/31	15-20	5 mi. SW Point Pinos	HN
6/13	15-20	6 mi. NW Point Pinos	HN

Pacific white-sided dolphin

There are nineteen observations of this dolphin of up to about 1500 individuals. They were seen anywhere from Carmel Bay to north of Santa Cruz at least to Pigeon Point. Sightings have been associated with feeding aggregations of humpback whales and California sea lions.

Northern right whale dolphin

6/14	200	Carmel bay	DR
		with 200 Pacific white-sided dolphin	
6/18	4-5	9 mi. SSE Santa Cruz	RT
		with 4-5 Pacific white-sided dolphin	

Bottlenosedolphin

6/4	4-5	Stillwater cove	GG
-----	-----	-----------------	----

Dall's porpoise

6/9	1	Pacific Grove	LOE
		an apparent 2-3 day old female (eventually named "Pebble") found in a tide pool and transferred to Marine World, died after six days of captivity due to respiratory illness.	
6/9	2	2 mi. N Point Pinos	RT
6/10	2	1 mi. W Marina Beach	RT
6/14	2	1 mi. NE Monterey Harbor	RT
6/14	2	3.5 mi. W Marina State Beach	RT
6/19	2	3 mi. W Marine Beach	RT

Northern elephant seal

6/2	1	8.5 mi. W Moss Landing	MI
6/18	1	7 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT

Northern fur seal

6/4	1	3.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
-----	---	------------------------	----

California sea lion

Breeding migration has begun and about 500 yearlings are present on Monterey breakwater with few to no identifiable adult males.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
------	------------	----------	----------

Harbor seal

Seen from Monterey Harbor to Point Lobos and Elkhorn Slough.

Southern (California) sea otter

Seen almost everywhere along the coast from Monterey Harbor south along the coast associated with or without kelp beds, and in Elkhorn Slough.

Leatherbacksea turtle

5/26	1	2 mi. W MBARI bouy	TZ
6/14	1	2 mi. W Sunset State Beach	RT
6/22	1	unknown	unk.

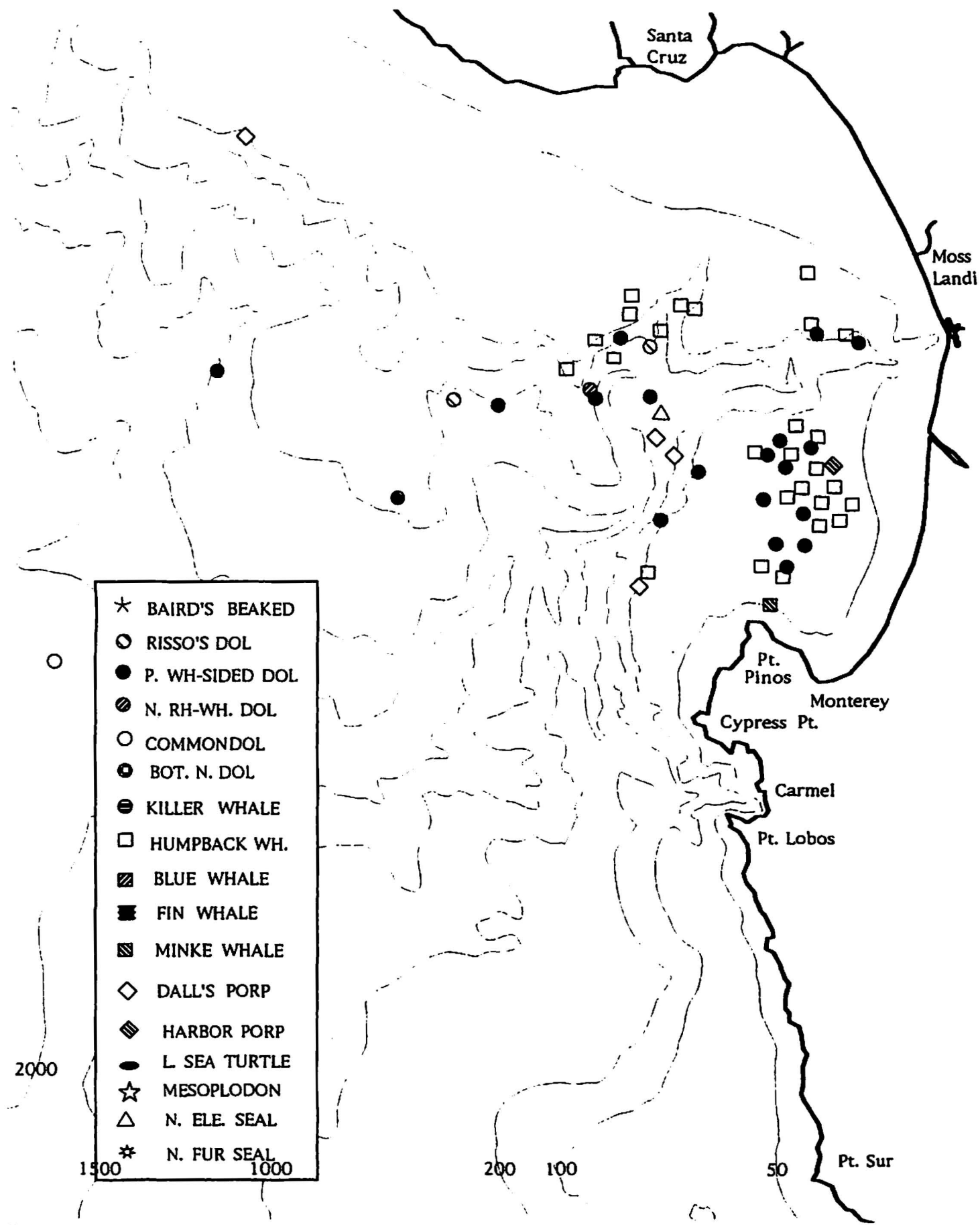
Whiteshark

6/7	1	Soquel Canyon	GF
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Key to observers:

JD=J. Danzenbaker; GF=G. Fisher; GG=G. Goulart; MI=M. Iverson; HN=H. Neece; RT=R. Ternullo; DR=D. Rookiard; JW=J. Williamson; WW=W. Williamson; TZ=T. Zolnick.





JULY 1995

Make Your Reservations NOW!!!

August Monterey Bay ACS Chapter Whale Watch Trip Just Around the Corner!

When: Saturday, August 12, 1995, 8am-3pm

Where: Monterey Sportfishing Dock at Monterey Fishermen's Wharf #1

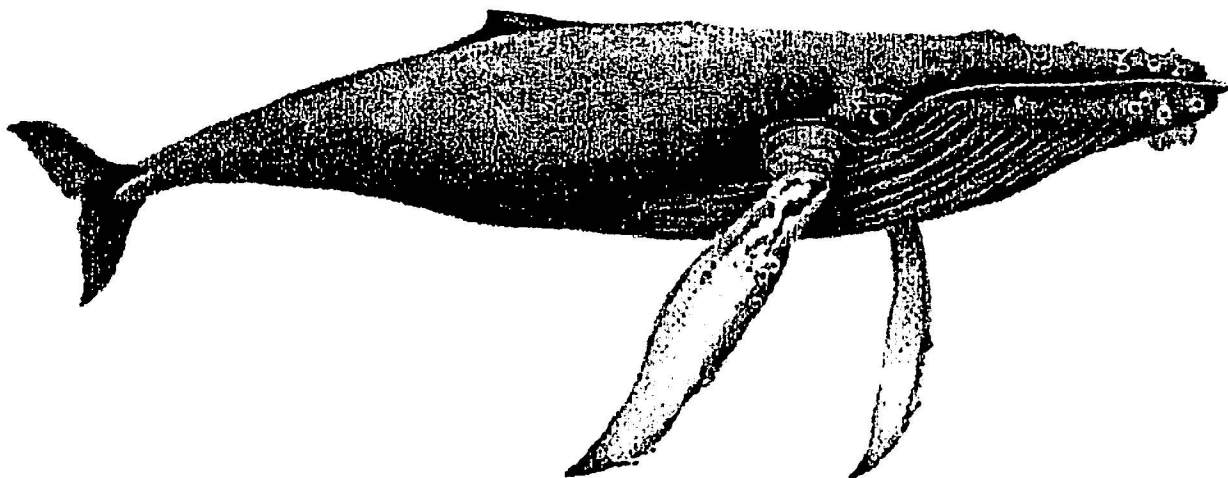
Cost: \$40 / ACS Members, \$50 / non-members

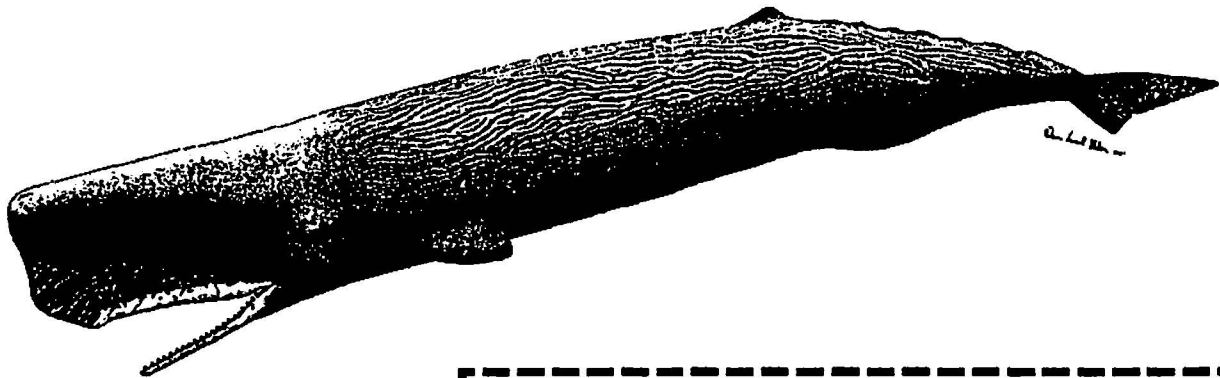
Our Chapter's annual fall whale watch boat trip is scheduled for Saturday, August 12th from 8am-3pm. Once again we will spend the day on board a chartered boat from Monterey Sportfishing in search of blue whales, humpback whales and a host of other whales, dolphins and other marine mammals which are likely to occur in the Monterey Bay area at this time of year. We have had GREAT luck the last few years (even those of us with short memories can recall the hundreds of

common dolphins with calves which surrounded our boat as the grand finale last year!) and look forward to another adventure under the guidance of our own ACS naturalists. Please call us for more information and to make your advance reservations – the sooner the better, as space is limited to the number of people we can comfortably take on board. All profit from this annual benefit event will be used to support our chapter's research, education and conservation programs.

For reservations or more information - please call after 3 pm:

Debbie Ternullo at 373-4281 or Jo Guerrero at 633-2956.





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Vice President and Publicity Chairperson	Richard Ternullo	1013 Hillside Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-4281
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Scientific Advisory Committee

Alan Baldridge	1132 Seaview Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	372-3809
Tom Kieckhefer	9433 Holly Hill Dr.	Salinas 93907	663-3813
Jerry Loomis	Route 1, Box 62	Carmel 93923	625-2120
Jud Vandever	93 Via Ventura	Monterey 93940	372-6001
Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-7676 (h), 647-4864 (w)
Tom Williams	23810 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel 93923	375-5570

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Type of Membership, Annual Dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign	\$45
		<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25

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Chapter: #24 Monterey

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Signature _____

Return to: Membership Secretary, ACS Monterey Bay Chapter,
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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AUGUST 1995

August 1995 Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, August 31, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

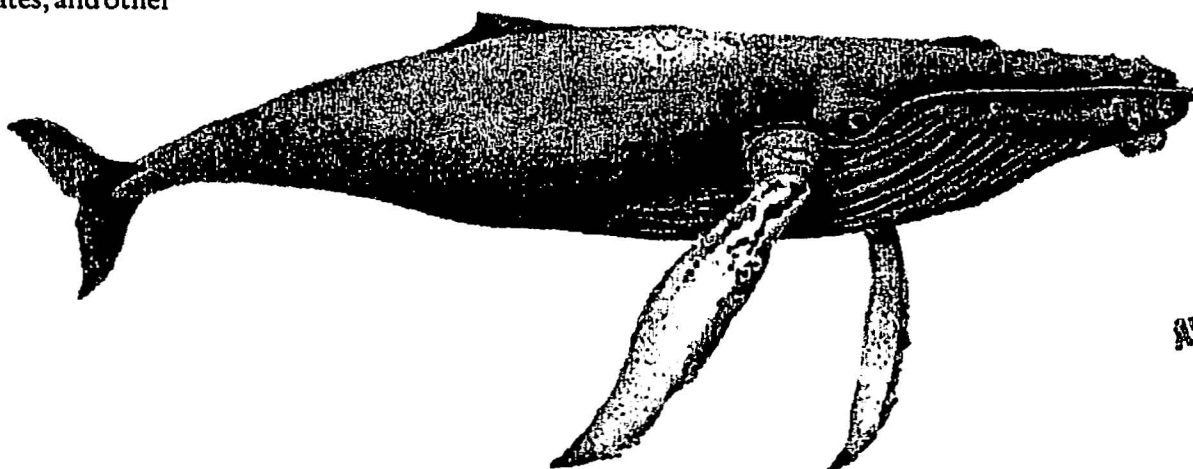
Speaker: John Calambokidis, Research Biologist, Cascadia Research

Topic: Blue and Humpback Whales Along the California Coast – their biology and abundance with the latest information on photographic identification of individuals

The California coast represents an important feeding area for humpback and blue whales. Cascadia Research has been studying the distribution, abundance, movements, and reproduction of these species since 1986. Over 600 individual humpback and blue whales have been individually identified using photographs of their natural markings off California. The presentation will review what has been learned from this research including migratory destinations of these whales, the most recent population estimates, and other

aspects of their biology. The increasing incidence of "friendly" encounters will also be presented.

John Calambokidis is a Research Biologist with Cascadia Research, a non-profit research organization based in Olympia, Washington that he founded in 1979. He is the Project Director of the humpback and blue whale research project and has conducted small boat surveys to locate and photograph humpback and blue whales along the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington since 1986.



AUG 21 1995

HOPKINS MARINE STATION LIBRARY

Pressure Builds on U. S. Tuna/Dolphin Issues

...by **Barbara Britten**

Since last month's report on the annual IATTC (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission) meeting in La Jolla, two more meetings have been held dealing with this thorny issue that so preoccupies many Latin American countries that are members of the IATTC and/or signatories to the La Jolla Agreement of 1992. Furthermore, two more meetings are scheduled, one in August and one in late October.

The more important of those already held was a very hastily-called one-day session in San Juan, Costa Rica in mid-July. It was not officially under IATTC auspices but it was convened within the framework of the IATTC's 1992 Agreement. Due to the very short notice of the meeting, six governments were represented and only one U.S. official was able to attend. Short as the meeting was, it produced a three-page document called the "San Jose Declaration." It reconfirmed their commitment to the "multilateral mechanisms" for the "conservation of living marine resources, the sustainable exploitation of these resources and the conservation of the ecosystems."

The Declaration expresses more explicitly these countries' contention that what they call the "dolphin-safe" alternatives to "setting on dolphins" to purse seine for tuna (fishing on logs or buoys) are harmful to tuna stocks, especially juveniles, result in extremely high and deadly bycatches of many other economically valuable fish species of all age classes and thus are destructive to the marine ecosystem. It also suggests that the La Jolla Agreement – and by implication the IATTC itself – may be in jeopardy if the U.S. does not increase its multilateral and internal efforts

and "eliminates inconsistent, unilateral policies and laws promoting the wanton and unnecessary destruction of the eastern Pacific Ocean ecosystems..." This is to be accomplished by the end of this session of the 104th Congress!

A meeting of the large Latin American Council was held just before the San Juan meeting; it passed a resolution entitled "Trade in Tuna." This brief document contained language asking the U.S. to lift the primary and secondary embargo provisions in the MMPA and to redefine the "dolphin-safe" concept. (The U.S. administration reaffirmed its support of such an embargo policy at the Washington hearing, after first announcing it at the IATTC June annual meeting.) Interestingly, the phrase "Latin American and Caribbean countries" is used.

The Council's resolution is being transmitted to OLDEPESCA, the Latin American Fisheries Organization, also a large group of member countries. Its August meeting in Caracas, Venezuela is one of the two future meetings mentioned above. In an unusual move, another meeting of IATTC-oriented countries, acting within the framework of the La Jolla Agreement will be held at the same time. Judging from a statement made by the OLDEPESCA observer at the June annual meeting, it is on this occasion that moves may be made to attempt to weaken the IATTC. The temptation to make such moves might be exacerbated by the apparent inaction in Congress and the recent decision by the sub-committee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans to postpone "indefinitely" the field hearing on tuna/dolphin that was to have been held in San Diego on July 31st.

As Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay, Barbara Britten provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist represented on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

FINALLY...The True Story About Red Tides!

...by Gregg Langlois and Patricia Smith

Red tide! That phrase conjures up an immediate, albeit fuzzy image. Ask ten people to define what "red tide" is and you will likely get ten different descriptions. Therein lies the problem with this colorful term: it conveys a simple but inaccurate picture of a complex biological phenomenon. In general terms ... a red tide is a variable-sized patch of water that contains enough pigmented phytoplankton cells to cause a visible discoloration of the water. The proliferation of phytoplankton, typically a single dominant species, necessary to become visible is often referred to as a "bloom". When a plankton bloom reaches these proportions there can be millions of cells in a liter of seawater.

There are two major groups of phytoplankton: *diatoms* (nonmotile and fast growing) and *dinoflagellates* (motile and phototactic). It is the dinoflagellates, a small number of which produce neurotoxins, that are associated with world-wide occurrences of red tides. Each group has different growth requirements (such as organic and inorganic nutrients, trace elements, and sunlight). In addition, chelating agents such as those derived from humic material have been shown to be beneficial for phytoplankton growth. Not surprisingly, then, red tides in different parts of the world have often been associated with rainfall-related land and river runoff. Silica is a limiting factor for diatom growth, while nitrogen and phosphorous can be limiting factors for dinoflagellate growth.

Physical transport is another important factor for phytoplankton blooms. Calm seas with a mild horizontal or vertical component are conducive to the concentration of phytoplankton cells. Areas of strong mixing and movement discourage the concentration of cells or may physically disrupt an existing bloom. In addition to delivering colder, nutrient-rich waters from below, coastal upwelling physically concentrates nonmotile diatom species near the surface. This concentration of cells in the upper photic zone, together with available nutrients and faster growth rates than dinoflagellates, may provide a competitive edge to diatoms during upwelling events. Conversely, a period of relaxation following upwelling can result in a stratified water mass consisting of a layer

of calm, warmer surface water and a deeper layer of colder, nutrient-rich water. These conditions favor the development of dinoflagellate blooms, or "red tides", as these plankters can actively swim to the surface to photosynthesize during the day and migrate to the lower depths at night to absorb nutrients. The hapless diatoms are no match as they sink to deeper water, beyond the reach of light and nutrients.

Many people envision red tides with the colorful misconception of a toxic reddish cloud meandering with coastal currents. Actually, the vast majority of phytoplankton blooms along the California coast involve non-toxic species. Only a very small number of the thousands of phytoplankton species identified worldwide are known to produce toxins. Nonetheless, toxic blooms have been increasing in frequency and distribution worldwide over the past twenty years. The reasons for this apparent increase are not clear, but researchers have suggested several possibilities: (i) increased nutrient input to coastal oceans from human activities; (ii) large scale climatic changes (e.g., global warming); (iii) transport of toxigenic species via ship ballast water to areas with no prior history of biotoxin outbreaks; (iv) increased use of coastal resources for shellfish harvesting and aquaculture; (v) increased surveillance by government health agencies and researchers.

The various neurotoxins produced by phytoplankton can be bioconcentrated throughout the food web, posing a threat to wildlife and humans alike.

Filter feeding bivalve mollusks (mussels, clams, scallops, oysters) represent a particular threat to shellfish-loving humans, as they can quickly concentrate these biotoxins to lethal levels, apparently Orange and San Diego

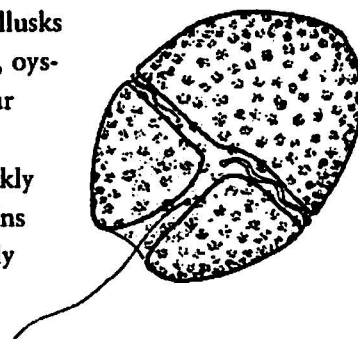


Figure 1. The dinoflagellate *Gymnodinium splendens*, responsible for recent red tides in Monterey Bay. (from McConnaughey, 1970) threat: the overwhelming majority of toxin outbreaks in California have not been linked with visible blooms.

(continued on page 4)

counties prior to the onset of California has a long history of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) activity. The coastal Indians reportedly stationed sentries to watch for bioluminescence in the waves as an indicator of toxic shellfish. The first confirmed association of PSP toxicity with a phytoplankton bloom (the dinoflagellate *Alexandrium catenella*) was the result of research conducted in California in 1927. Since that time there have been 511 PSP cases, including 32 deaths, reported to the California Department of Health Services (CDHS).

California's monitoring program for PSP, the oldest in the U.S., has traditionally relied on the collection and analysis of mussels from numerous sites along the coast. The well-documented occurrence of a "new" biotoxin, the amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP)-causing domoic acid, in California waters in 1991 caused CDHS to re-evaluate its monitoring program. In this episode a bloom of domoic acid-producing diatoms, *Pseudonitzschia australis*, were consumed by schools of anchovies, which in turn were consumed by seabirds such as brown pelicans and cormorants. The result was a massive bird kill in which over 300 animals died of neurotoxic poisoning. Thus the cost of biotoxin monitoring in California doubled overnight! With guidance and support from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Seafood, CDHS set about developing a pilot program to monitor for toxin-producing phytoplankton. The program's goal is to determine if phytoplankton monitoring can be a reliable and cost effective tool for detecting the presence of toxin producers *before* they bloom and create a life-threatening situation. A unique aspect of this program is that it is relying almost completely on the participation of volunteers to collect and identify phytoplankton. The program currently consists of over 50 volunteers, with backgrounds as diverse as university researchers, fishermen, grammar and high schools, and interested citizens.

Volunteer samplers and field identifiers, together with CDHS staff, have already been responsible for: (i) detecting and tracking a non-toxic red-tide (the dinoflagellate *Gonyaulax polyedra*) that spanned five counties over a two month period; (ii) detecting a nonvisible bloom of *Alexandrium*, the PSP toxin producer, along the coast of toxicity in mussels; (iii) detection and identification of without being significantly affected. Unfortunately, a toxic bloom does not have to reach visible proportions to

pose a another non-toxic red tide that occurred from Monterey Bay northwards to Bodega Bay during July and August, 1995. This latter event has been of keen interest to wildlife experts as it occurred during a time when they observed an unusual number of bird deaths in Pt. Reyes and Monterey Bay, as well as an incidence of high mortality in a sea otter population in Monterey Bay.

The association that people commonly make between "red tide" phenomena and toxicity led some to speculate that the bird and otter deaths were related to the visible plankton blooms occurring in the area. Samples collected by program volunteers, as well as members of the Pacific Cetacean Group who were participating in a phytoplankton training session at the time, indicated that the spectacular blooms that were occurring mostly consisted of the graceful but harmless dinoflagellate *Gymnodinium splendens* (Figure 1). Other species observed at much lower abundances represented an unusually persistent dominance of dinoflagellates (*Dinophysis spp.*, *Prorocentrum micans*, and *Protoperidinium spp.*). A very low level of PSP toxicity was detected in mussels from the area, but these observed concentrations were well below harmful levels.

While the intent of the CDHS marine biotoxin monitoring and control program is to protect human health, the wealth of information generated on phytoplankton species composition and toxin concentrations along the coast of California can be a valuable resource to other investigators. This grass-roots program provides a means for citizens to be actively involved in marine research while providing a real public service.

The Phytoplankton Monitoring Program, managed by the California Department of Health Services, is a state-wide voluntary program designed to detect toxin producing species of phytoplankton in ocean water before they impact California's valuable shellfish resources or become a threat to consumer safety.

**For More Information Please Call:
(510) 540-3423 or (510) 540-2716.**

**For Recorded Biotoxin Information Call:
(800) 553-4133**

Court Upholds Jet Ski Limits

A federal court has upheld strict rules limiting the use of jet skis in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, handing a victory to environmental groups who contend the crafts threaten sea otters and disrupt swimmers, kayakers and other ocean users.

The 3-0 ruling last week by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia means that riding jet skis once again will be limited to four small zones off harbors at Pillar Point, Santa Cruz, Moss Landing and Monterey. The areas total 15 square miles. Jet skis will be outlawed everywhere else in the massive Monterey Bay sanctuary, a 5,312-square-mile area that stretches from San Francisco to San Luis Obispo.

Jet skis are no different than other power boats, which are not subject to the same strict rules, Hagie said. Jet ski riders in Monterey Bay were given a black eye by one rider in 1990, he said, who chased and hit a sea otter off Canner Row. The rider, a Carmel Valley man, was captured on film by a photographer from National Geographic who happened to be nearby. The rider was prosecuted and fined \$500 for a violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Two federal wildlife refuges in the Florida Keys banned jet skis last year, citing harm to herons and other birds when jet ski riders rode into shallow tidal areas. Those rules withstood a court challenge several months ago, according to Jim Bell, acting manager of the Key West National Wildlife Refuge.



Source: Article by Paul Rogers, San Jose Mercury News, March 10, 1995.

Whale Removal Techniques

"The Farside comes to life in Oregon. I am absolutely not making this incident up; in fact I have it all on video tape. The tape is from a local TV news show in Oregon, which sent a reporter out to cover the removal of a 45-foot, eight-ton dead whale that

washed up on the beach. The responsibility for getting rid of the carcass



was placed on the Oregon State Highway Division, apparently on the theory that highways and whales are very similar in the sense of being large objects. So anyway, the highway engineers hit upon the plan—remember, I am not making this up—of blowing up the whale with dynamite. The thinking is that the whale would be blown into small pieces, which would be eaten by seagulls, and that would be that. A textbook whale removal.

So they moved the spectators back up the beach, put a half-ton of dynamite next to the whale and set it off. I am probably not guilty of understatement when I say that what follows, on the videotape, is the most wonderful event in the history of the universe. First you see the whale carcass disappear in a huge blast of smoke and flame. Then you hear the happy spectators shouting "Yay!" and "Whee!" Then, suddenly, the crowd's tone changes. You hear a new sound like "splud." You hear a woman's voice shouting "Here come pieces of...MY GOD!" Something smears the camera lens. Later, the reporter explains: "The humor of the entire situation suddenly gave way to a run for survival as huge chunks of whale blubber fell everywhere." One piece caved in the roof of a car parked more than a quarter of a mile away. Remaining on the beach were several rotting whale sections the size of condominium units. There was no sign of the seagulls who had no doubt permanently relocated to Brazil.

This is a very sobering videotape. Here at the institute we watch it often, especially at parties. But this is no time for gaiety. This is a time to get hold of the folks at the Oregon State Highway Division and ask them, when they get done cleaning up the beaches, to give us an estimate on the US Capitol."

Source: Article by Tom Mahoney, #9, Coast Guard Sqn. 11 Div. 13 from the IAMSLIC Listserv.

Marine Mammal Sightings: June 26 – July 25, 1995

...compiled by *Richard Ternullo*

The past month continues to be a showcase of humpback whales. Observing them from shore, however, is difficult since they are generally a little too far offshore. The best place to try would be from Moss Landing Harbor where up to 6-8 are seen within one mile of shore on some days. Blue

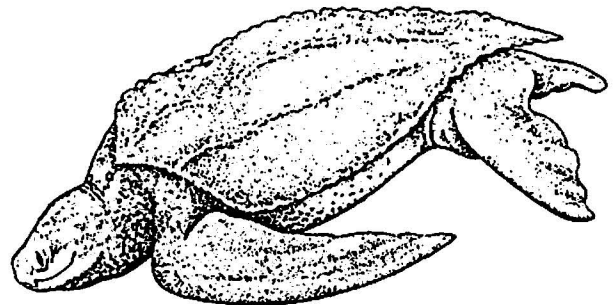
whales should be seen frequently during the next month.

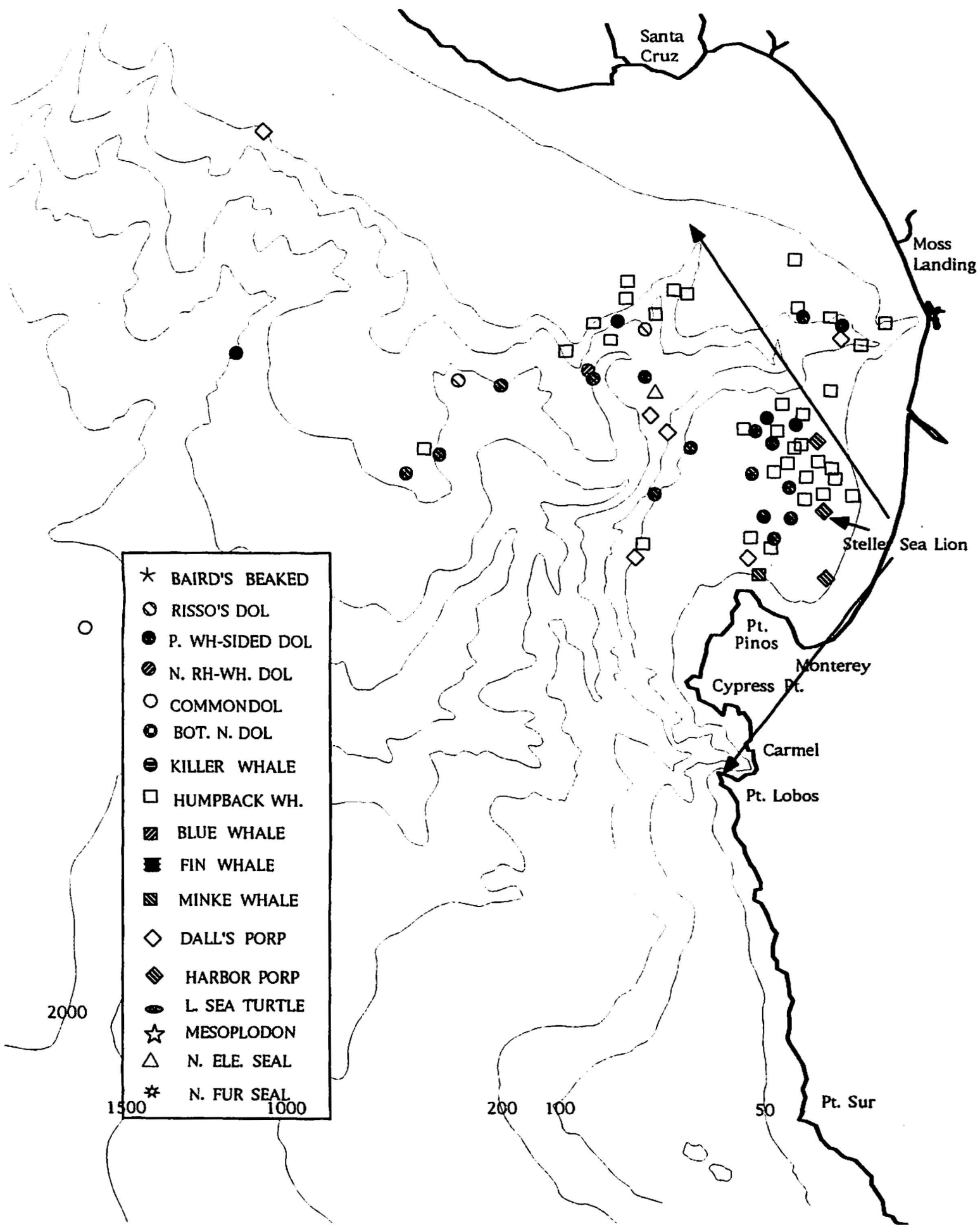
There has been moderate Pacific white-sided dolphin activity with most sightings associated with feeding humpbacks. No common dolphin have been seen for two consecutive months.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Humpback whale			
There are twenty-seven observations of up to 10-12 individuals. They have been seen from Davenport to Cypress Point.			
Killer whale			
7/1	2	8.5 mi. WSW Santa Cruz	WC
Pacific white-sided dolphin			
6/26	100	2 mi. W Cypress Point	SHJ
6/27	100-150	5 mi. NNW Point Pinos	RT
7/1	3-5	6.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
7/1	200	7 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT
Associated with one humpback whale.			
7/4	20	3.5 mi. W Marina Beach	RT
Associated with 3-4 humpback whales.			
7/5	20-30	3.75 mi. W Salinas River	RT
7/6	10	3 mi. W Salinas River	RT
With 2-3 humpback whales.			
7/10	30	1 mi. N Lover's Point	JW
Risso's dolphin			
6/26	30	12 mi. W Point Pinos	SHJ
6/26	20	6 mi. S Santa Cruz	NL
Dall's porpoise			
6/27	1-2	3.5 mi. W Point Pinos	JW
Associated with one humpback whale.			
6/29	3-5	6.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	MBW
7/1	4-5	5.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
7/4	5+6	8 mi. W Moss Landing	RT
7/10	6+4	3.5 mi. W Moss Landing	BJC
7/15	4-5	3 mi. W Moss Landing	RT
7/21	2	0.75 mi. N Point Pinos	RT
Harbor porpoise			
7/10	2-4	2 mi. N Hopkins Marine Station	BJC
7/12	2	1.5 mi. W Monterey Beach Hotel	RT
Northern elephant seal			
7/1	1	6 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
7/1	1	6 mi. S. Santa Cruz	RT
California sea lion			
There are about 400-500 individuals in and around the Monterey Harbor, particularly on the wooden portion. Most are yearlings, but by the end of the reporting period, some adult males have returned.			
Steller sea lion			
6/29	1	Point Lobos	JL
7/1	1	6 mi. S Santa Cruz	HN
7/16	1	2 mi. W Solkier's Club	JW

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Harbor seal			
Seen at many places along the shore from Monterey Harbor to Point Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.			
Southern (California) sea otter			
Found from along the coast associated with kelp beds and in Elkhorn Slough.			
Leatherback sea turtle			
7/1	1	7 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	NL
7/2	1	Unknown	NL
7/10	1	1.5 mi. W Soldier's Club	SD
White shark			
6/30	1	Point Lobos	MPH

Key to observers: BJC= Bakersfield Junior College; WC= W. Click; SD= S. Devlin; NL= N. Lemon; JL= J. Loomis; MBW= Monterey Bay Whalewatch; MPH= Monterey Peninsula Herald; HN= H. Neece; SHJ= Shearwater Journeys; RT= R. Ternullo; and JW= J. Williamson.





Harbor Porpoise Calf Live-Stranding in Pacific Grove

...by Libby Osnes-Erie

It was late morning, Friday, June 9, when I got a call at my home in Monterey. Dion Oxman from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) was calling to report a baby dolphin in a tide pool in Pacific Grove. I quickly got my cetacean stranding gear (foam, sheets, buckets, towels, boots, etc.) together, and off I went. I pulled into a turnoff near the Pacific Grove golf course and saw a man standing out on some rocks looking down, and a young lady seated on a bench. She asked if I was from Moss Landing Marine Labs, and then led me to where the man was standing. They then pointed and asked, "Is that a shark or a dolphin?" Imagine my amazement when I saw a tiny little harbor porpoise in a tidepool. The tidepool was just the right size and the safest place for her to be at the time. I checked her over and realized she was a newborn, female, harbor porpoise and probably only a day or two old. She still had fetal folds, the umbilicus was attached, and she had a row of little whiskers on each side of her rostrum. She was 2.5 feet long and weighed 19 lbs.

She had been found in the tide pool by the young lady's brother, Tin. His sister and her friend had gone to the Monterey Bay Aquarium to report the stranding. Tin, his other sister, and another gentleman, diligently watched over the porpoise. The aquarium contacted our marine mammal stranding network at MLML, and that is where I came in.

I asked them to continue watching her while I made several calls at a pay phone, including to the Monterey County S.P.C.A. and the Long Marine Lab (LML) in Santa Cruz. Dr. Dave Casper (LML) contacted Marine World Africa U.S.A. who agreed to take the porpoise. Because it is best to transport a porpoise in water, members of LML's rescue team - Dr. Dave Casper, Billy Hurley, Dave Silver, and Lindsay Clark - drove to Pacific Grove to transport her in a fiberglass tub on the back of their flatbed truck.

Upon returning to the stranding site, MLML graduate student Michelle Lander was there waiting for me, and together we placed a sheet over the tidepool to shade it. Pacific Grove police officer Hector Gonzalez and S.P.C.A. Humane Officer Paulette Parker came by to see if they could be of assistance.

Paulette already had three pinnipeds in her van from her busy morning, so she left to take them to the SPCA. While waiting for the team from LML to come I monitored the porpoise's respiration rate. Because her heart rate would speed up and she held her breath when being handled, I only touched her occasionally as she seemed to be doing okay.

When LML's rescue team arrived, we quickly placed the porpoise in the foam-lined tub with water, and she was on her way to Marine World. Three people rode on the flatbed to Vallejo to care for the porpoise while the driver maneuvered through rush-hour traffic. She nearly died twice during the trip, but they were able to revive her.

She was placed in the "medical" pool at Marine World with a special floating sling to support her in the water. She was given medication and tube-fed a formula. She was named "Pebble" and seemed to adapt to her human companions. She fluctuated daily between lethargically resting off to the side of the pool, to swimming on her own beside a person. Unfortunately, early June 15, she took a turn for the worse and died. A necropsy found she died due to pseudomonas, a bacteria found in her lungs.

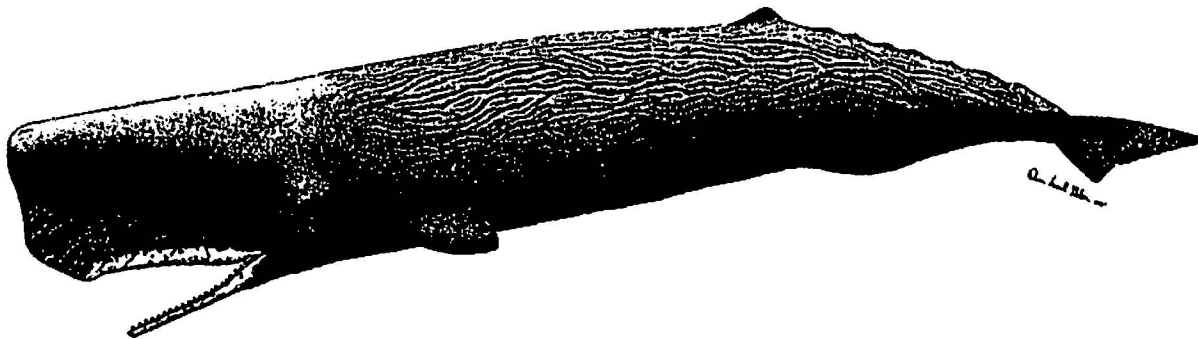
Individual cetacean strandings can be attributed to a wide variety of factors. Although one might think returning live-stranded animals to sea is the correct thing to do, it is often not the most humane response. Stranded animals are often unhealthy, and pushing these animals out to sea again may prolong their pain and suffering. They will often restrand or drown and wash up on a beach. If you find a live-stranded cetacean, report it as soon as possible to the proper agency for that area:

Monterey County - Monterey Co. S.P.C.A. (373-2631) and MLML (755-8650);

Santa Cruz County - LML (459-2883) and The Marine Mammal Center (415-289-7325).

Until help arrives, the animal's skin should be kept moist, being careful not to get water into the blowhole. Noise and activity should be kept at a minimum to reduce stress to the animal.

(Libby Osnes-Erie is the Marine Mammal Stranding Network Coordinator, Moss Landing Marine Labs)



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Welcomes New Members
Michael and Kimberly Arzaga
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MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
SEPTEMBER 1995

September 1995 Meeting

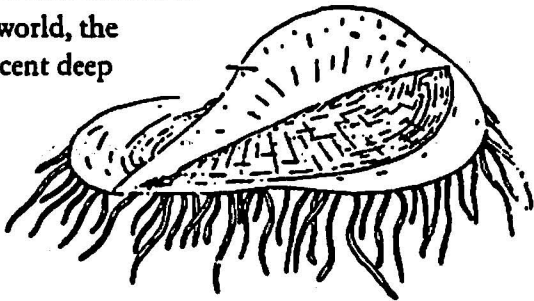
Date & Time: Thursday, September 28, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station,
Pacific Grove

Speaker: Nancy Jacobsen, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research
Institute (MBARI)

Topic: Monterey Submarine Canyon: new explorations

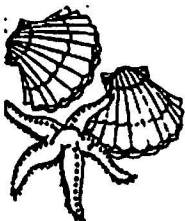
While the shoreline, tidepools, beaches, kelp beds, and inlets of Monterey Bay and their biota are some of the best known in the world, the adjacent deep sea



remains relatively unstudied, remote and mysterious.

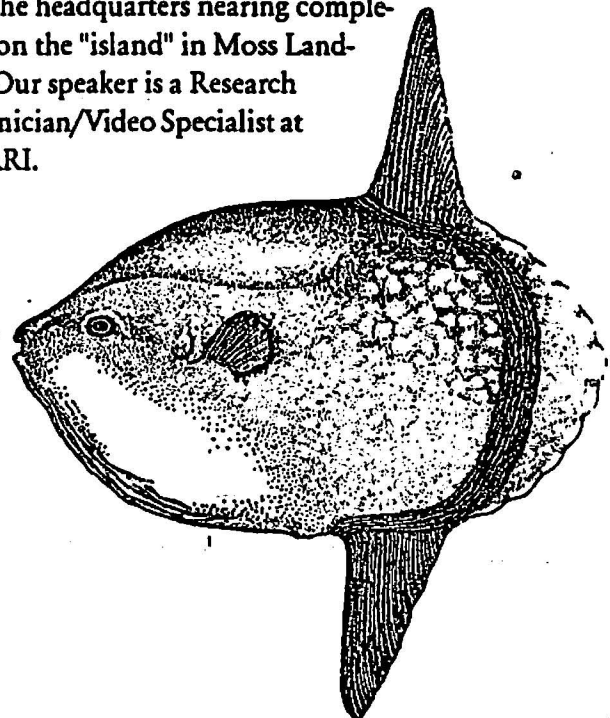
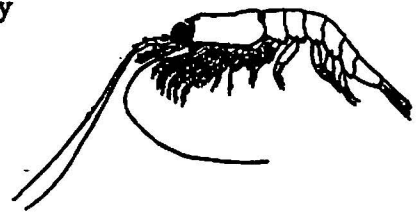
The first deep sea sampling of the Bay occurred in 1905 by scientists onboard the "Albatross" using grab-sampling and trawling. A new window on the deep sea opened with the establishment of MBARI

in 1987 and subsequent exploration by the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) "Ventana" of many aspects of the deep. Studies range from geology and canyon origins to the life forms dwelling on the seafloor, canyon walls and mid-water regions.



Our speaker Nancy Jacobsen will update members and friends with new video footage as well as news of the new

submersible, the research vessel now under construction and the headquarters nearing completion on the "island" in Moss Landing. Our speaker is a Research Technician/Video Specialist at MBARI.



Frontal Attack on Major Environmental Legislation

...by **Barbara Britten**

Tuna/Dolphin: On the day the House recessed for the August break, Rep. Randy Cunningham (R, CA), of the Escondido area and three others from nearby San Diego, introduced H.R. 2179. This bill essentially eviscerates the important tuna-dolphin elements in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Its two major provisions include: 1) repealing the embargo provisions with its concomitant comparability standards; and 2) completely eliminating the section dealing with "dolphin-safe" definitions and standards. No committee action was taken at that time. It is rumored that this bill is too strong even for the numerous ardent anti-environmental members of the committee. This is not necessarily because of its content but because of the potential political fall-out from the myriads of dolphin lovers among their constituencies.

In the meantime, another amendment to the MMPA, co-sponsored by Resource Committee Chair Don Young (R, AK) and subcommittee chair Jim Saxton (R, NJ) has purportedly been drafted and will be introduced soon after Congress returns after Labor Day. The test has not yet been available. The Washington hearing on H.R. 2179, originally scheduled for September 12, has been postponed and no new date has been set.

Endangered Species Act (ESA): Two parallel paths to draconian restructuring of the ESA are being followed in Congress. Almost without precedent is the one which involves incorporating major policy changes in the Act itself into the appropriations bills required annually for funding all agencies and departments. Identical versions must be approved in each house and submitted to the White House before September 30, the end of each fiscal year. The other path is the routine reauthorization process.

As of this writing, the focus is on the Interior Department's appropriation bill, passed by both houses and due to go to conference committee in early September. This bill S. 1977, contains a provision that requires an indefinite moratorium on all new listings of endangered species. A major effort is under way to generate public opposition to this ESA action and communicate with President Clinton, reminding him of his promise to veto this bill if it still contains a listing moratorium when it reaches his desk.

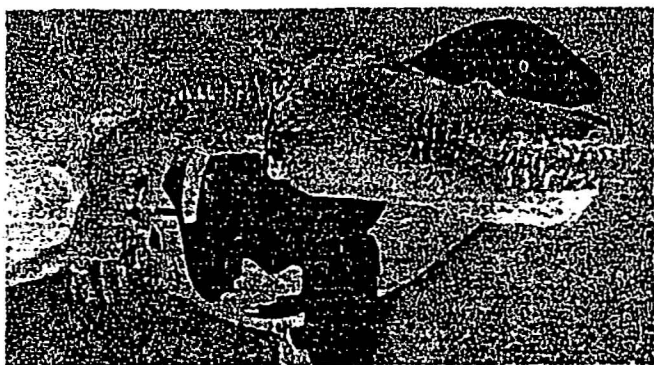
Meanwhile, in the House, the other, reauthorization, path is being pursued, namely a comprehensive reauthorization bill for the entire Act. Right after Labor Day, Reps. Don Young and his most vehement anti-ESA cohort on the Resource Committee, Richard Pombo (R, CA) will introduce the Young/Pombo Bill, as yet unnumbered. It is expected to be considered in the Resources Committee shortly thereafter and brought to the House floor in early October.

There are three major policy changes and/or reversals in this proposed bill. First, it would do away with the habitat protection provisions that are the underpinning of the entire Act; they were recently upheld by the Supreme Court. Second, recovery of a species would no longer be a goal of the ESA. Third, it would add complicated layers both time-consuming and expensive. Entailed is a legal and regulatory process to provide compensation to property owners for government actions taken under the ESA and governed under the "takings" clause of the fifth amendment to the Constitution. (This latter is a major concession to the "wise use"/property rights activists in the 104th Congress.

As Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay, Barbara Britten provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist represented on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

A Killer Whale Comes to the Pacific Grove Museum

An exhibit project which started thirteen years ago finally was completed in March 1995. Sometime in 1982 a dead, 5-ton female killer whale washed ashore at Pebble Beach. With the help of Pebble Beach Company people, their front-end loader, and the Museum staff brought the carcass to a secret location and buried it. Burying it would insure that the flesh would naturally decompose and the skeleton would remain intact.



Killer whale skeleton mounted in front of orca mural.

Four years later the skeleton was exhumed and the head and lower jaw were taken to the Museum for additional cleaning and preservation. the remaining portion of the skeleton was reinterred.

In early 1994 the remaining skeleton was dug up, again with the help of the Pebble Beach Company. This time all the bones were taken to the Museum for additional cleaning; a smelly, dirty job said Paul Finnegan the Assistant Curator. Finally, Paul took the entire skeleton to the Pacific Grove City Public Works Department yard and with the help of a vehicle high pressure steam cleaner the bones were clean enough to turn over to the museum exhibitor selected to mount the skeleton.

Frank Perry from Santa Cruz, the museum exhibitor who produced the Museum's *Killer Bees* and most recently the *Pine Pitch Canker* exhibit was chosen to mount the skeleton. Frank had already mounted an 86' Blue Whale skeleton for the Long Marine Laboratory in Moss Landing.

In preparation for mounting the skeleton Frank produced a life size mural painting of the Killer Whale and centrally mounted it in the old entrance

hall to the Museum. First the backbone was articulated and mounted in front of the mural painting; artificial cartilage had to be produced to separate each vertebrate bone. Then on Monday, 6 March, Frank mounted the head, lower jaw, the right side skeleton will be mounted. The 16' skeleton will become the centerpiece of a newly designed Cetacean Room which will hopefully be completed in the upcoming year.

All three local television stations carried the story of the installation on their early evening news broadcasts and *The Herald* had a front page photograph.

Excerpt from the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History Association Newsletter, Vol. 9, No. 2, April 1995.

Bottlenose Dolphin Kills Drunken Man

A bottlenose dolphin killed a man at Caraguatuba, Brazil, on 8 December. The wild male dolphin, called Tiao, has been interacting with people there since March, putting up with occasional abuse as an unmonitored mix of people swam or played with him. Significantly, the official and public reaction blamed the drunken man, *not* the dolphin. Public awareness has prompted better protection for him and a vastly improved educational program run by volunteers and scientists.



Sperm Whales Strand

At least 17 sperm whales stranded during November at locations in Belgium, Germany, England and Scotland. Most were reported as juveniles around 15 m in length, and initially alive. No causes or relationships have been made public yet but work is continuing.

Marine Mammal Sightings: July 26 – August 25, 1995

...compiled by *Richard Ternullo*

Humpbacks were the most commonly seen baleen whale in the past reporting period. Blue whales made their appearance, but numbers declined by about August 25. Pacific white-sided dolphin numbers declined and long-beaked common dolphin observations were first recorded. Risso's dolphin and northern right whale dolphin numbers were

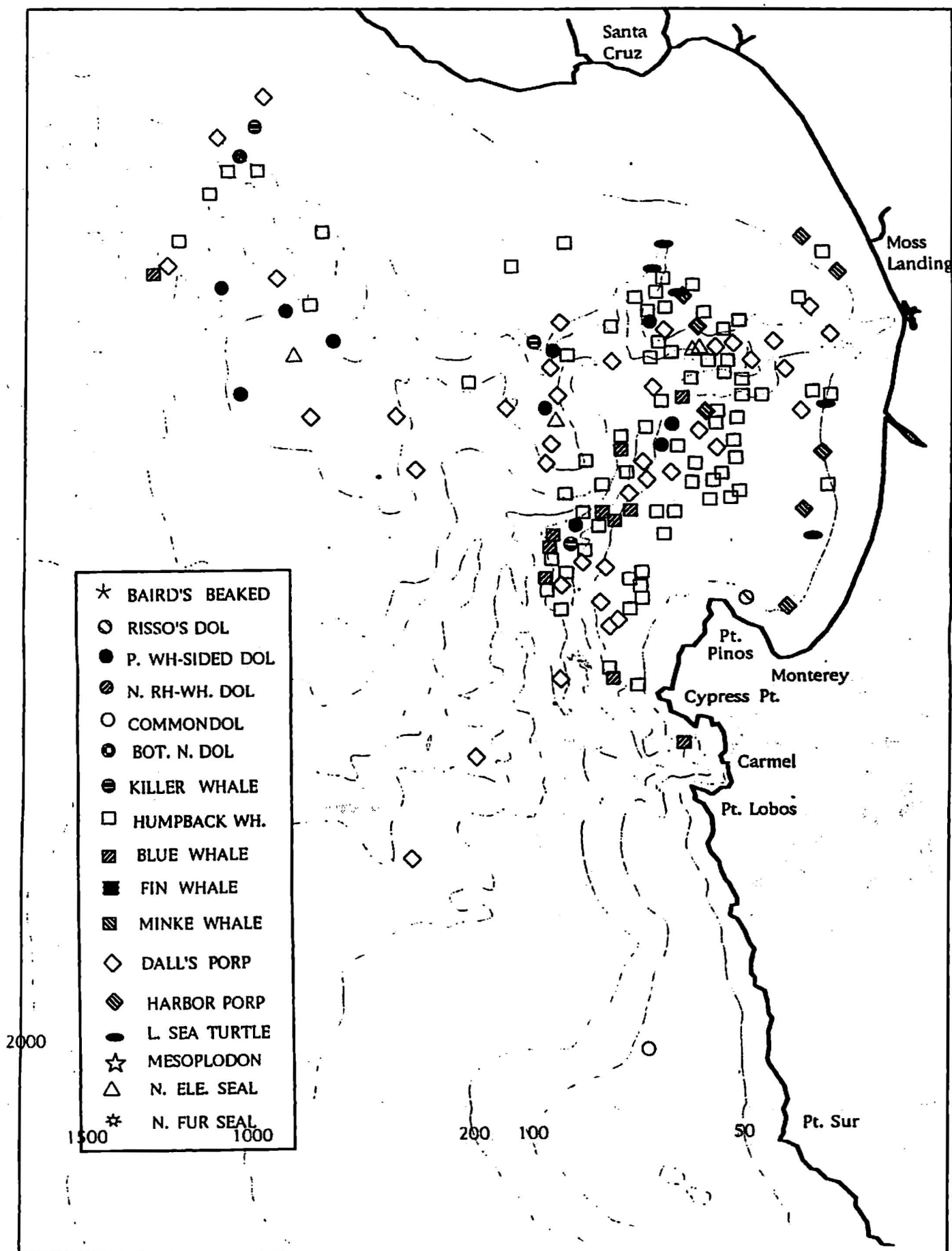
also low. The most exciting observation was the first record of an interaction involving humpback whales and killer whales on Monterey Bay (and I believe in all of California) on August 27. Look for greater diversity of species as we make the transition from upwelling conditions and begin the oceanic phase of the year.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Blue whale			
Blue whales have been sighted thirteen times with pods of as many as six individuals seen mostly along canyon edges from Cypress Point to Point Pinos.			
Humpback whale			
There were seventy-eight observations of pods containing from ten to fifteen individuals seen mostly along canyon edges from Cypress Point to Soquel Canyon.			
Killer whale			
8/8	5-6	8 mi. SW Davenport	EP
Possibly eating a California sea lion.			
8/23	2	4 mi. NW Point Pinos	LO
8/24	2	8.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	WQ
Pacific white-sided dolphin			
8/5	12	15 mi. W Point Pinos	SHJ
8/5	4-5	18 mi. W Point Pinos	SHJ
8/6	200	12 mi. SW Davenport	SHJ
8/10	150	4 mi. W Point Pinos	MBW
8/15	30-50	8.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	MBW
8/18	10-15	14 mi. WSW Santa Cruz	SHJ
8/19	250	18 mi. WSW Santa Cruz	SHJ
8/21	10	4 mi. W Marina State Beach	JHM
8/21	50	3.5 mi. W Cypress Point	JHM
Associated with 20 Risso's dolphins and 15 northern right whale dolphins.			
8/22	20	6 mi. W Point Pinos	OSE
Risso's dolphin			
8/10	15-20	0.5 mi. N Otter Point	MBW
Long-beaked common dolphin			
8/19	150	3.5 mi. W Hurricane Point	JW
Dall's porpoise			
There were forty-one sightings of up to forty porpoises in groups of from five to twelve.			
Harbor porpoise			
7/28	3	3 mi. W Marina State Beach	RT
7/30	1	4 mi. W Salinas River	RT
7/31	8	7.5 mi. W Santa Cruz	RT
Associated with a humpback whale.			
8/2	4	1.5 mi. W Salinas River	RT
8/11	8+7	2 mi. W Pagaro River	RT
8/13	2	5 mi. W Moss Landing	SHJ
8/25	1	2 mi. N Hopkins Marine Station	RT
Northern elephant seal			
8/5	1	16 mi. W Point Pinos	SHJ
8/6	1	8 mi. NW Point Pinos	SHJ

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Northern elephant seal (con't)			
8/8	1	5 mi. W Moss Landing	SHJ
8/8	1	5.5 mi. W Moss Landing	RT
California sea lion			
There were about 400-500 individuals in and around the Monterey harbor, particularly on the wooden portion. Most were yearlings, but by the end of the reporting period, some adult males returned.			
Harbor seal			
Seen at many places along the shore from the Monterey harbor to Point Lobos and Elkhorn Slough.			
Southern (California) sea otter			
Found along the coast associated with kelp beds and in Elkhorn Slough.			
Leather sea turtle			
7/30	1	2 mi. W Soldier's Club	DR
7/31	1	2 mi. W Salinas River	unknown
8/8	1	6 mi. S Santa Cruz	JW
8/12	1	5 mi. SSE Santa Cruz	JW
8/13	1	5 mi. SSE Santa Cruz	JB

Key to observers: JB=J. Baxter, DL=D. Lemon, MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch, EP=E. Pieraccl, DR=D. Rooklard, JHM=R/V John H. Martin, OSE=Oceanic Society Expeditions, LO=L. Oliver, SHJ=Shearwater Journeys, RT=R. Ternullo, JW=J. Williamson, and WQ=W. Quick.





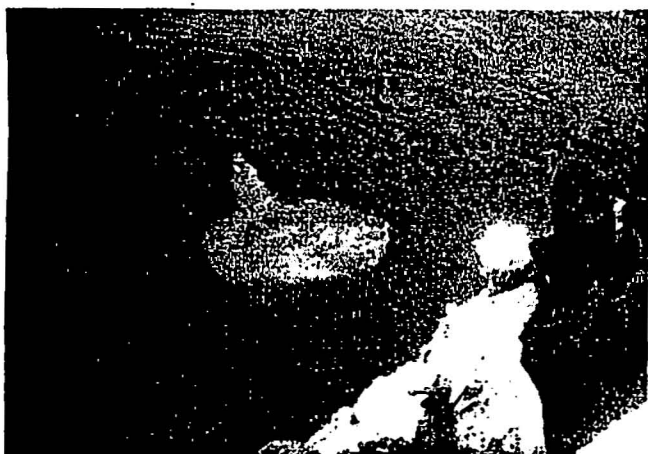
A Whale of a Mola...and other adventures aboard ACS Monterey Bay's August whale watching trip

...by Jo Guererra

Nearly 60 eager passengers accompanied by ACS naturalists were treated to a rich assortment of cetaceans, pinnipeds, otters, fishes and birds during our annual all-day boat trip on Saturday, August 12.

In past years we've observed both blue whales and humpbacks on this trip, and though we didn't have the same luck with those particular leviathans this trip, the great variety of sightings certainly made up for it.

In addition to one fast-moving humpback, we got spectacular looks at harbor porpoises (two mother/calf pairs), Dall's porpoises and bow-riding Pacific white-sided dolphins. Surface-swimming fishes seen included a blue shark and a HUGE Ocean Sunfish, i.e. Mola mola, which floated seemingly unconcerned within a few feet of our stationary boat for several minutes (see photo). At least 6



feet in diameter and an estimated 700 lbs. (or more), it was the largest individual our skipper, Leon Oliver, had ever seen (though they can apparently weigh at least 3,000 pounds!). A northern elephant seal, sea otters and lots of California Sea lions rounded out the marine mammal sightings, and the pomarine jaeger and huge black-footed albatrosses viewed up close to the boat were "firsts" for many on board.

Thanks to the many passengers who supported the trip with their enthusiasm and financial contri-

butions, and to our naturalists Esta Lee Albright, Kieckhefer, Tom Jefferson, and Libby Osnes-Erie for their expertise. Once again, Manager Benji Shake of Monterey Sportfishing gave us a great deal on the use of the F/V Magnum Force, and as always the wonderful support from Captain Leon, wife Barbara and deckhand A.J. insured that the trip was a great success. Proceeds will go to support our chapter's research, conservation and education programs.

Our next trip will be in search of gray whales in January 1996, so keep an eye out for our announcements in *Soundings* and local newspapers.

Whaling Culture or...\$\$\$

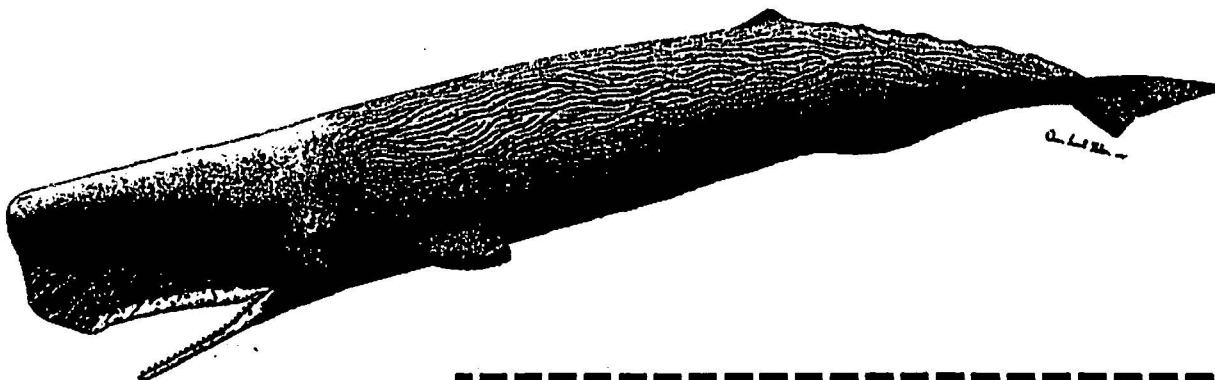
It isn't easy to get unreferenced research results into *Nature*, but the Tokyo-based Institute of Cetacean Research has managed it. It has taken a page advertisement, timed to coincide with the meeting of the International Whaling Commission, which contains the institute's usual "data" designed to support the resumption of commercial whaling.

The punch line of their advertisement is: "Does one culture have the right to impose its preferences on what animals may or may not be used for human consumption on another? You are invited to judge."

Actually, nobody is imposing anything on Japan. The Japanese government has decided quite freely that it would like to be a member of the IWC. If it does not want to see a global solution to the problem of managing a global resource worked out by a global group, then it could leave the IWC and continue commercial whaling. This would certainly be more honest than its present policy of killing whales under the guise of scientific research.

Leaving the IWC could, however, mean that Japan would lose valuable fishing rights in American waters. Although the Japanese government may appear to feel deeply about its unique "culture", it does not feel so strongly that it is prepared to lose money over it.

Source: Editorial from *New Scientist*, 3 June 1995.



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MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
OCTOBER 1995

October 1995 Meeting

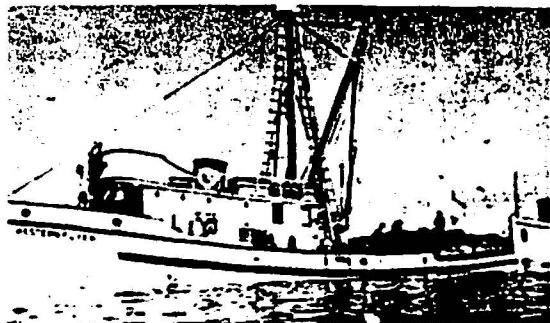
Date & Time: Thursday, October 26, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Steven K. Webster, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Topic: Ed "Doc" Ricketts and John Steinbeck in the Sea of Cortez

Many of us dream of retracing the steps of marine biologist Ed Ricketts and writer John Steinbeck, and their interesting fellow passengers aboard the chartered fishing boat *Western Flyer* in 1940, on their now legendary exploration.



FV Western Flyer

The stark, mountainous desert landscapes of the Peninsula and of islands set in a spectacular rich sea continue to draw biologists and ecotourists, including many from our membership.

As a graduate student our speaker was inspired by Rickett's work in *Between Pacific Tides* and *Sea of Cortez*. since 1965 he has visited the area annually, exploring by boat and by 4-wheel drive.

Steve will retrace for us the travels of those on the *Western Flyer*, commenting on the significance of their findings and the nature of their escapages. He will talk about subsequent changes in the biota, the impacts of heavy fishing, turtle hunting and tourism. Changes in marine mammal populations will be discussed.

Steve was educated at Stanford (PhD) and taught at San Jose State University and Stanford before joining

the planning group of the still embryonic Monterey Bay Aquarium, prior to us opening in 1984. He has headed the Education Department since that time. As a biologist and educator he has influenced many people. He is a board member of the ACS/Monterey Bay and is an outstanding speaker.



Ed Ricketts at the Great Tide Pool, Pacific Grove, California.

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Oil Drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWAR) Looms Ahead

...by **Barbara Britten**

This initiative has again raised its ugly head and is urgently in need of immediate action. As many will remember, an attempt was made in the 1980's during the Energy Act reauthorization process to pass this proposed legislation. Despite attempts by the Alaskan delegation and efforts by the powerful oil lobbyists, it was defeated. Now, with a radically different mood and makeup in Congress and the ruthless use of clever parliamentary maneuvering, oil drilling may become a reality by slipping it into the "budget reconciliation" bill, totally bypassing the usual legislative process.

In this Congress, Alaska's two senators and its sole Congress member chair committees crucial to conservation/environmental issues. Just recently, (within two days of each other), the House Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Representative Don Young and Senator Frank Murkowski, respectively, approved opening up ANWAR to oil drilling by large margins. Meanwhile, the House-Senate conference committee is negotiating the Interior Department's appropriation for next year; this bill also includes provisions for funding oil drilling efforts. The outcome is still uncertain as of this writing. It has been reported in the press that President Clinton will veto any such activity if included in any measure that goes to the White House.

This refuge, 1.5 million acres in far northeast Alaska, is one of the largest and most pristine areas left in all the U.S. and also is one of the most ecologically sensitive. It sits on the coastal plain adjacent to the Beaufort Sea, the habitat for most of the world's 7,000 plus bowhead whales; it's the principal migratory route for the large "Porcupine" herd of caribou as they move from western Canada to their calving/breeding grounds on the tundra; it

is the primary nesting/feeding grounds for myriads of shorebirds. The Interior Department has long opposed oil drilling there, as have many petroleum geologists and ecologists in the private and public sectors concerned about the over-estimates of the amount of oil available and the environmental damage to the entire ecosystem. The large despoiled area around the Prudhoe Bay oil fields is not exactly a shining example of environmental sensitivity on the part of oil companies.

The budget reconciliation bill facing President Clinton in the next several weeks puts him in a difficult quandary. In effect, it requires that he accede to the principle of balancing the federal budget by the year 2002 as demanded by the Republican majority and its leadership. President Clinton needs strong support and constant reinforcement to sustain his commitment to veto this bill if it contains several anti-environmental measures to which he has already expressed his strong objections. **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to the president expressing your views specifically on ANWAR oil drilling OR give him general support to stay committed to reject all threats to weaken environmental protection. (1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500)

H.R. 2179 - Cunningham bill on tuna/dolphin. Stalled, due to budget priorities; no hearings scheduled; write your Congress member to oppose bill if and when it gets to House floor.

H.R. 2275 - Young/Pombo bill totally re-writing and gutting the Endangered Species Act. Possible hearings and quick floor action in late October or early November. Write to your member of Congress. Even strong ESA opponents need to know where people stand.

As Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay, Barbara Britten provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist represented on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Celebrates Third Birthday!!

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Birthday Party was once again a great event. Lots of people, sun and great things to see. A special thanks to all of the wonderful people who helped out in the ACS/Monterey Bay chapter booth. Without you, we couldn't have done it! Special thanks go out to Jo Guerrero, Diane Glim, Deborah Oglesby, Joy Osborne, Marian LaRosa, Kathy and John Kopple.



ACS Sponsors Winter Whale Adventures in 1996

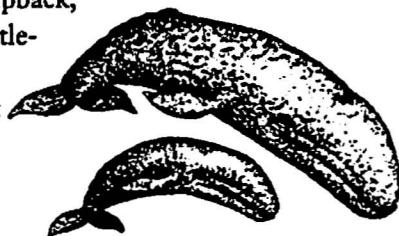
Unique travel opportunities to view cetaceans from Alaska to Mexico and the Sea of Cortez are offered through ACS during 1996:

San Ignacio Lagoon Basecamp - Feb. 24-28, 1996. Travel from San Diego to San Ignacio Lagoon by chartered plane and bus service to spend three full days watching friendly gray whales. *Trip cost \$1,425*.*

Cruise the Baja Lagoons and the Sea of Cortez - March 12-23, 1996. Beginning in San Diego you'll cruise aboard the 95' Searcher to La Paz making frequent stops along the Baja California coast. *Trip cost is \$1,425*.*

Southern Sea of Cortez - March 23-31, 1996

Cruise the southern Sea of Cortez for wonderful views of blue, Bryde's, fin, humpback, and sperm whales, bottle-nose and common dolphins, pods of pilot whales, and other frequently sighted cetaceans. The trip will begin and end in La Paz, Baja California. *Trip cost \$1,775*.*



Alaska-Humpback Whales - June 17-27, 1996

Trip cost is \$3,050 from point of departure and includes a scenic floatplane flight.*

British Columbia-Killer Whales - Sept. 9-15, 1996

This trip begins and ends in Port Hardy, British Columbia and costs \$1,575 U.S.*

**Prices quoted are for ACS members. Non-members add 10% or join ACS. ACS is offering early bird prices for the 1996 Baja Whale Adventures. For more information write to: ACS Whale Adventures, P.O. Box 1391, San Pedro, CA 90733, or call: (310)548-6269. Fax (310)548-6950.*

Join ACS on Our First-ever Elkhorn Slough Safari

On December 15, ACS/Monterey Bay will meander through Elkhorn Slough among the seals, otters and countless birds aboard the quiet, stable 12-seater pontoon boat, *Vaquero II*. We will explore the natural and cultural history of Elkhorn Slough with one of our own ACS naturalists, along with skipper and slough naturalist/historian Yohn Gideon.



On a trip just last month, Chapter President Jo Guerrero was surprised to get spectacular views of more than twenty sea otters (many feeding), several dozen harbor seals and nearly 30 species of coastal birds (including a marbled murrelet, white pelicans, elegant terns and lots of peeps) on the short two-hour trip...and according to Captain Gideon, it was just another good day! From last year's trip records, Gideon guessed that December may be *even better*.

Since we have only two trips scheduled - which hold only 12 passengers each - space is VERY limited ... so reserve your seat today! All proceeds will support ACS/Monterey Bay's research, education and conservation programs. Please call Debbie Ternullo (373-4281) or Jo Guerrero (633-2956) to make your reservations.

TRIP DATE: Friday, December 15th, 1995

TRIP TIMES: 9:00-11:00 am or 11:30-1:30 pm

MEETING SITE: Moss Landing Harbor Parking Lot

COST: \$25 per person

Marine Mammal Sightings: August 26 – September 25, 1995

...compiled by **Richard Ternullo**

The onset of the oceanic period began in the waters surrounding the Monterey Bay this month – signifying the period when the most diverse and interesting combinations of marine mammals may be sighted. Though not often observed, baird's beaked whales were sighted this month with the most frequency I have ever recorded.

During the next reporting period, baleen whale sightings will probably become less frequent. And as November advances, blue and humpback whales will soon begin moving south, and we may possibly see the first gray whale recordings for the fall/winter.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Bluewhale			
9/4	2	2 mi. NW Cypress Point	DL
9/10	4	Off Ragged Point	RB
9/16	2	14 mi. SSW Point Pinos	SHJ
9/17	2	2 mi. W Yankee Point	BW
9/17	1-2	8.5 mi. SSE Santa Cruz	SHJ
9/19	60-80	57 mi. W Point Pinos	HN

Humpbackwhale

There were thirty-three observations of singles and pairs scattered from Soquel Canyon to Cypress Point.

Minkewhale

9/24	1	3 mi. N Point Pinos	ELA
9/3	1	1.5 mi. W Asilomar State Beach	JW

Baird's beaked whale

9/16	15-20	22 mi. SSW Point Pinos	SHJ
9/16	4	4 mi. W Point Pinos	SHJ
9/16	4-6	37 mi. SSW Point Pinos	SHJ
9/16	?	32 mi. SSW Point Pinos	SHJ
9/16	4-6	7.5 mi. SW Point Pinos	SHJ
9/19	4-5	6 mi. W Point Joe	BW

Killerwhale

8/27	5	6.5 mi. W Moss Landing	MBW
Harassed three humpback whales (this observation represents the first record of an interaction I am aware of in California), chased 500 California sea lions, and chased a common murre.			
8/27	2	Near Monterey breakwater	CDa

Two males chased California sea lions near the Monterey harbor.

9/10	2	Near MBARI bouy	RO
There were also eight humpback whales, ten Dall's porpoise, and 12 California sea lions in the area with no observed response. One killer whale was identified as the female CA44.			
9/12	5-7	1.5 mi. S Cypress Point	CD
9/16	4	47 mi. SSW Point Pinos	SHJ
9/21	20-30	Near Partington Point	JA
9/22	5	7 mi. W Point Sur	CDe

Risso's dolphin

8/28	20	5 mi. W Cypress Point	RO
With 20 northern right whale dolphins.			
9/13	50	2 mi. W Point Joe	NL
9/16	60	Near Lover's Point	NL
9/16	1000	12 mi. SW Cypress Point	HN
Associated with hundreds(?) each of northern right whale dolphins and Pacific white-sided dolphins.			
9/16	200	5 mi. W Point Pinos	SHJ
With 150 Pacific white-sided dolphins.			
9/23	50	Carmel Bay	JW

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Pacific white-sided dolphin			
8/26	100	4 mi. SW Point Pinos	SHJ
9/5	100	10 mi. SW Santa Cruz	RO
9/5	200	7.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RO
9/10	135	11 mi. SW Santa Cruz	SHJ
9/16	75-100	18 mi. SSW Point Pinos	SHJ
9/17	50-100	1.5 mi. SSW Cypress Point	SHJ
9/21	20	7 mi. W Point Pinos	MBW
9/22	30-40	6.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	MBW

Northern right whale dolphin

9/10	150	44 mi. SW Point Pinos	SHJ
Along with 200 Pacific white-sided dolphins.			
9/16	20	8 mi. SW Point Pinos	SHJ
9/22	300-400	6 mi. SW Point Pinos	MBW
Associated with 300 Risso's dolphins.			

Harbor porpoise

8/26	2	5.5 mi. SSE Santa Cruz	RT
9/13	1	Near Stillwell hall (a dead stranding)	LOE

Common Dolphin sp.

8/26	2000	1 mi. W Yankee Point	LO
8/31	20	3 mi. NW Cypress Point	RO
9/5	500-600	3.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	JW

Long-beaked common dolphin

There were 11 observations scattered throughout the Bay of up to 900, individuals total.

Short-beaked common dolphin

9/22	20-30	11 mi. SSW Cypress Point	MBW
Along with two northern right whale dolphins,			

Dall's porpoise

There were 41 observations of up to 40-50 in groups of 5-10 individuals.

Northern elephant seal

9/10	1	1 mi. N MBARI bouy	SHJ
9/21	1	6.5 mi. W Point Pinos	MBW
9/22	1	4 mi. SW Point Pinos	MBW
9/22	1	6 mi. SW Point Pinos	MBW

Northern fur seal

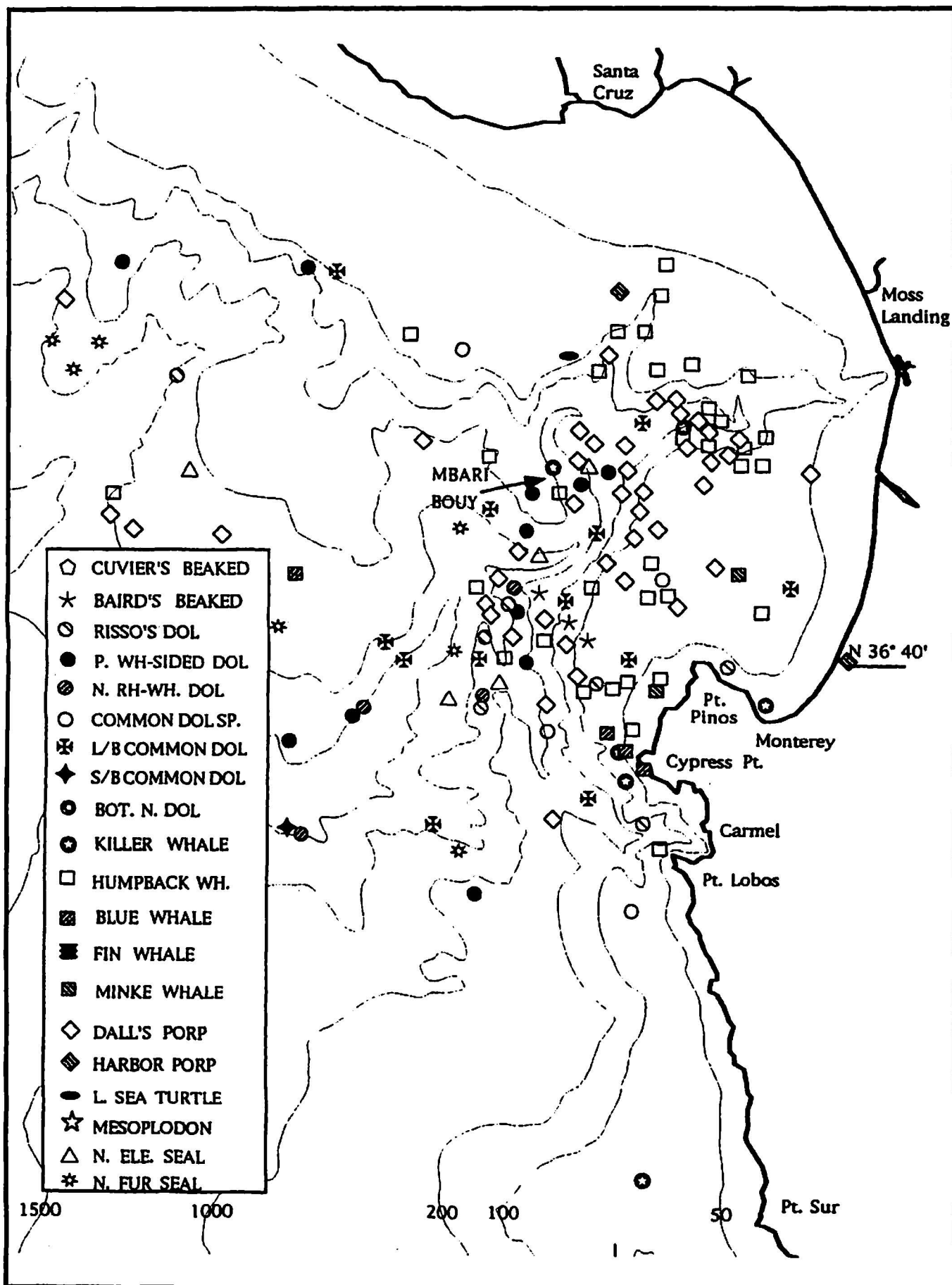
Ten sightings from offshore greater than about 4-6 miles

Leatherback sea turtle

9/6	1	8 mi. S Santa Cruz	LO
9/10	1	5 mi. off Pillar Point, San Mateo Co.	JK

Key to observers: ELA=E. Albright; JA=J. Allotti; RB=R. Branson; CDa=C. Davis; CDe=C. Dennie; JK=J. Klusmire; DL=D. Lemon; NL=N. Lemon; MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch; HN=H. Neece; LO=L. Oliver; RO=R. Ortiz; LOE=L. Osnes-Erie; SHJ=Shearwater Journeys; RT=R. Ternullo; JW=J. Williamson, and BW=B. Wilson.

Soundings



Gray Whales Migrate from the Rocky Mountains to California

The first ever migration of gray whales from the west slope of the Rocky Mountains to the coast of California will begin in mid-November. This gray whale migration, however, will be one of the bronze sculpture variety!

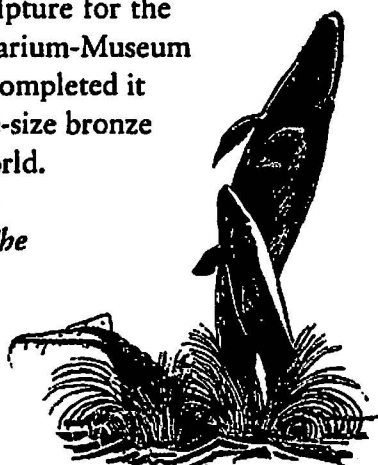
You might remember from the February 1995 issue of *Soundings* that local world-renowned sculptor Randy Puckett has been commissioned by Scripps Institution of Oceanography to create a life-size bronze sculpture for the Stephen Birch Aquarium-Museum in La Jolla. When completed it will be the only life-size bronze of whales in the world.

Randy Puckett's bronze sculpture *The Legacy* will begin its three day southwest journey to its new home at the Stephen Birch Aquarium/

Museum in La Jolla next month. The migration will begin in Paonia, Colorado at the Lands End Foundry where Randy has been spending two weeks out of each month since the beginning of March working on his life-size masterpiece. The migration will roll west through Grand Junction, Colorado, across Utah through Green River, Salina, and southwest through Cedar City. Next, the trio will cross a corner of Arizona, through Las Vegas, Nevada, and finally pass through the deserts of southern California via San Bernadino, Riverside, Rancho California, and on to La Jolla!

The official ceremonial unveiling will take place on March 15, 1996 at the Aquarium in La Jolla.

The Legacy depicts a 48-foot gray whale breaching with her calf (18 feet in length) and the 11 foot flukes of a third whale standing. This project is a culmination of Puckett's efforts throughout the last 15 years to capture the magnitude and immensity of gray whales.



Monterey Vineyard Hosts Benefit Showing of Randy Puckett's Sculpture Work

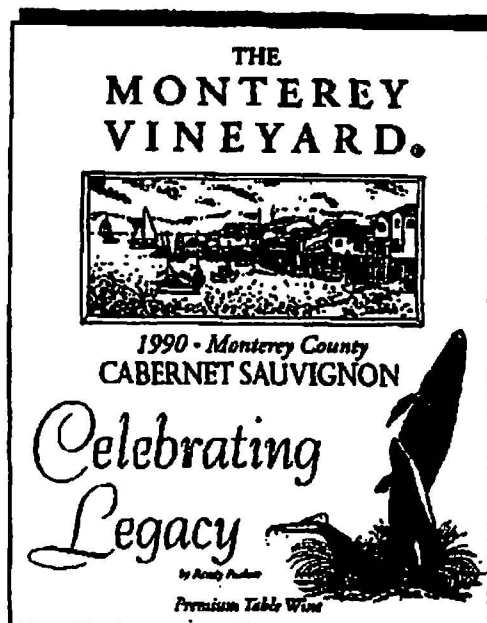
The Monterey Vineyard, which is also one of the sponsors of the exhibition at Scripps in March, is hosting a showing of Randy Puckett's work to benefit the ACS/Monterey Chapter as well as Friends of the Sea Otter; YWCA of Monterey County Battered Women's Shelter; and Rehabilitation Services of Northern California (RSNC).

The artist's reception will be at 6 p.m., Friday, November 3, 1995. Randy will be present and will distribute 40% of all sales to these organizations.

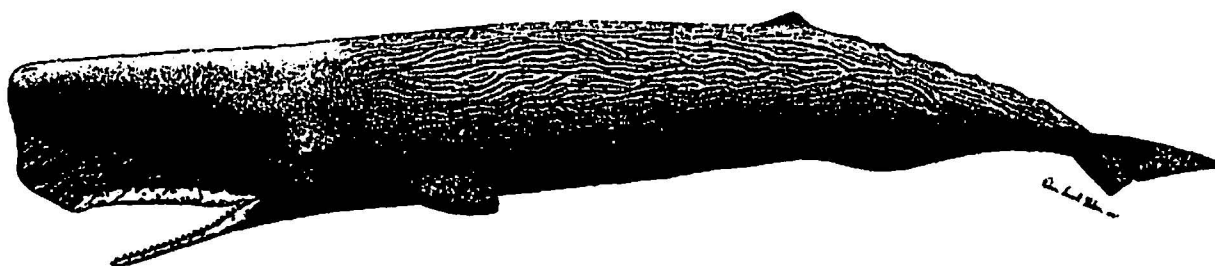
Also, in honor of *The Legacy*, the Monterey Vineyard have created a special private-label Cabernet Sauvignon. According to Randy and Gail Puckett, it's a very good wine and reasonably priced. If you would like to try *The Legacy* private-label wines, please call the Monterey Vineyard.

November 3 - December 10, 1995

The Monterey Vineyard
Gonzales, California



Randy Puckett was instrumental in the funding of the ACS/Monterey Bay chapter and served as its first president. For more information on Randy Puckett's sculpture collection, the Monterey Vineyard reception, or the official unveiling of *The Legacy* sculpture in La Jolla, Randy can be reached at (408)663-4494.



Welcome to New Members

The ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter is pleased to welcome our new members Kim Beals and Bernice Moore of Pacific Grove, and Jeanine Scaramozzino of Monterey

Soundings Now Available by Subscription

Nonmembers of ACS may now subscribe to this newsletter for \$15 for 12 issues. Fill out the form below and send it with your check.

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Monterey Bay Chapter's Board Members for 1995

President	Jo Guerrero	280 Walker Valley Rd.	Castroville 95012	633-2956
Vice President and Publicity Chairperson	Richard Ternullo	1013 Hillside Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-4281
Recording Secretary	Deborah Oglesby	314 Aachen Rd.	Seaside 93955	394-1878
Treasurer	Scott MacDonald	441 Semple Ave.	Aptos 95003	688-2934
Membership Secretary	Kathy Whittaker	514 Beaumont Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-2274
Past President	Diane Glim	1301 Buena Vista Avenue	Pacific Grove 93950	646-8743
Program Chairperson	Alan Baldridge	1132 Seaview Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	372-3809
Newsletter Editor	Carrie Wilson	1054 Jewell Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	375-6486
Newsletter Mailing	Marian LaRosa	P.O. Box 105	Monterey 93942	375-2221
Beachwatch Coordinator	Esta Lee Albright	200 Dunecrest, #2	Monterey 93940	375-1658
Special Events Coordinator	Debbie Ternullo	1013 Hillside Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-4281

Scientific Advisory Committee

Alan Baldridge	1132 Seaview Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	372-3809
Tom Kieckhefer	9433 Holly Hill Dr.	Salinas 93907	663-3813
Jerry Loomis	Route 1, Box 62	Carmel 93923	625-2120
Jud Vandever	93 Via Ventura	Monterey 93940	372-6001
Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-7676 (h), 647-4864 (w)
Tom Williams	23810 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel 93923	375-5570

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Type of Membership, Annual Dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign	\$45
		<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapter: #24 Monterey

Check _____ Master Card _____ Visa _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Return to: Membership Secretary, ACS Monterey Bay Chapter,
514 Beaumont Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

SOUNDINGS

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Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY
MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
NOVEMBER 1995

November 1995 Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, November 30, 7:30 PM

Place: Lecture Hall, Monterey Boat Works, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Kenneth S. Norris, Professor Emeritus of Natural History,
University of California, Santa Cruz

Topic: BELUGA- White Whale of the North

The white whale, or Beluga, shares the High Arctic waters with its close relative the narwhal, as well as the massive bowhead whale, several pinniped species, and the polar bear.

Belugas, while common in Arctic Alaska, have been little studied there. Most research in North America has been done in Canada, beginning with the southernmost and geographically isolated populations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, then with the Churchill, Hudson Bay population, and now with the High Arctic animals at Somerset Island, North West Territories.

Our speaker, who has recently visited Somerset Island, will discuss the lives of these remarkable ivory-colored, gregarious, and noisy whales, which gather in enormous numbers in selected bays and estuaries in the North. He will discuss their adaptations to life in Polar Seas, migrations (including under-ice travel), and their social organization, in so far as it is understood.

There is a long history of hunting Beluga throughout

the Arctic regions of the Old and New Worlds. It continues today. In addition, the Gulf of St. Lawrence population is severely impacted by pollutants, notably PCBs, and its continued survival there is in question.

Our speaker, a pioneer of modern cetacean studies, has shown remarkable insights into the lives of his subjects. His work has ranged from cetacean sound production and dolphin social organization (especially Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins) to reduction of the dolphin kill associated with modern tuna fishing. Professor Norris is the author or co-author of several highly regarded books including Dolphin Societies; The Hawaiian Spinner Dolphin; and Dolphin Days. Apart from numerous scientific publications he is also a contributor to popular magazines such as National Geographic. He has been an inspiration to a generation of students.

Please join us for a very special evening.



"Recreational" Human-Dolphin Interactions Increasing

...by Barbara Britten

In the Sept.-Oct. issue of the NMFS publication "MMPA Bulletin" a disturbing article appeared headlined "Flipper's Myth Proves Harmful." In it there is an array of anecdotal evidence indicating a marked increase in human-dolphin interactions, many with severe consequences to either humans or marine mammals. There are laws in the U.S. that severely restrict the once-proliferating swim-with dolphin programs. It is illegal to feed wild dolphins from tour boats, a practice originating in Texas and rapidly spreading to Florida and South Carolina. Feeding wild marine mammals anywhere is also banned, even though it is still noted among the sea lions of California.

As a result of extensive publicity, the famous small colony of dolphins at Monkey Mia in remote western Australia has become a major tourist Mecca over the last 20 years. The public is allowed to feed dead fish to these dolphins in very shallow waters as the dolphins swim around their legs. It has recently been reported that the six females regularly appearing there have borne 17 calves since the feeding began, but only five offspring have survived. It is speculated that these young may not have acquired any feeding or foraging skills.

In the waters of Hawaii where it has long been known that some pelagic dolphins utilize uninhabited coves and shallow nearshore waters to rest, unscrupulous boat operators, having observed these dolphins resting, are ferrying tourists to these spots to swim with dolphins. Scientists worry that disturbing these dolphins in their resting places may disrupt behavioral patterns, itself illegal under the MMPA.

Accessible shores along the popular coast of Highway 1 in California are the sites of a new trend in interaction. State park rangers at San

Simeon have observed people jumping onto the backs of elephant seals and posing their children for photographs along side these unpredictable animals. On the east coast, seals (species not mentioned) are hauling out and pupping on the shores of densely-populated Long Island. In 1994 alone, seven people were bitten by seals, just on Long Island.

This article notes: "NMFS is especially concerned about the increasing frequency of injuries, deaths and changing behaviors among local-area dolphins ... As these animals lose their natural fear of humans, they become increasingly vulnerable to interactions and collisions ... They become more reliant on begging for handouts instead of foraging ... The behavioral impact of these activities on the animals, especially on calves and juveniles, is of particular concern to scientists."

The Service is intensifying its educational efforts to inform the public about the law, but fiscal constraints limit their efforts; enforcement personnel has always been in short supply and may get even worse. The article specifically mentions "...the hope that members of the conservation, science, public display and fishing communities..." will aid in this educational effort.

NOTE: In talking with NMFS about this issue, I learned that there are collections of slides and photographs available, with vivid pictures of some interactive events. If a chapter or individual wants information on how to obtain these for public education or other purposes, please feel free to contact me:

Barbara Britten
801 J Street #64
Davis, CA. 95616.

As Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay, Barbara Britten provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist represented on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

President's Farewell

...by Jo Guerrero

Largely by virtue of chance timing, I've been witness and participant to some important milestones in the life of our national organization and our chapter as your ACS Monterey Bay President for 1994 and 1995. In these past two years, ACS National has worked wonders in identifying short- and long-term goals for the organization and adopting a realistic budget capable of supporting them. I am especially pleased to report that National has clearly acknowledged the critically important role which chapters such as ours play in promoting strong local research, education and conservation programs. National's clear, reasonable goals, realistic budget and strong support for chapter activities has created a mutually supportive and very encouraging relationship between us.

This was not the case just two years ago. I couldn't help but take pride in the many accomplishments of our chapter when praised by National officers and other chapter representatives at the recent annual National Board meeting I attended. Of particular note were our excellent newsletter (thanks to Editor Carrie Wilson), well-attended monthly meetings highlighted with great speakers (thanks to Speaker Chair Alan Baldridge), strong and loyal membership (which has actually increased slightly in the past year, in contrast to downturns in some chapters and many conservation non-profits issues such as ATOC).

At the annual meeting, I learned that National is right on budget, and in 1996 will again send out two Whalewatcher magazines and quarterly Spyhoppers. ACS will also provide new, updated whale fact sheets to the interested public via mail or fax, and should soon be linked to the world on the wide web. I provide ready accessible information about both ACS and marine mammals.

I hope to see all of you at the ACS 1996 Conference, which is back on biennial track after a one-time hiatus. Mark your calendars for the weekend of November 9-10, 1996 - and set your travel destination for San Pedro, California, which will be a first-time host to this major event. Session topics will include the latest on cetacean research, policy

and a variety of human-cetacean issues geared to scientists, educators and the public. An art show, field trips and other activities are also planned.

Finally, I would like to thank our chapter board members and scientific advisors (listed at the back of this issue) for their too-often unacknowledged hard work which has kept our chapter running smoothly. Our local and National board, combined with your absolutely essential membership, has made possible a great many contributions to marine mammal research, education and conservation. Many thanks to you all for your support, and for the opportunity to be a part of a very special conservation community here in Monterey Bay.

Sign-up Now for the First-ever ACS/Monterey Bay Elkhorn Slough Safari

Time is running out! Make your reservations now while seats are still available for the ACS/Monterey Bay Elkhorn Slough Safari. We will meander among the harbor seals, sea otters and countless birds of Elkhorn Slough aboard the quiet, stable 12-seater pontoon boat, *Vaquero II*. Please join us to explore the natural and cultural history of Elkhorn Slough.

Space is VERY limited ... so reserve your seat today! Please call Debbie Ternullo (373-4281) or Jo Guerrero (633-2956) to make your reservations.

TRIP DATE: Friday, December 15th, 1995

TRIP TIMES: 9-11 am or 11:30-1:30 pm

LOCATION: Moss Landing Harbor Parking Lot

COST: \$25 per person

With the death of Monterey County Planning Commissioner, Jo Stallard, on November 10th, the area has lost a staunch spokesperson for the environment and for animal rights. Many ACS members will remember her as an early proponent of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, of which she served from the beginning on its advisory board. She was an enthusiastic member of Beachwatch and of Sealwatch, both ACS sponsored activities. Her presence will be sorely missed.

Marine Mammal Sightings: September 26–October 25, 1995

...compiled by *Richard Ternullo*

This has been a very busy reporting period with both baleen and toothed whales being seen in great numbers and variety. Next month should begin the onset of the Davidson season and a decline in variety of baleen whales with gray whales becoming dominant as southbound migrations escalate.

Dolphin and porpoise sightings have been frequent, and no unusual observations have been

noted. The best sighting of the month was the observation of killer whales consuming a California sea lion hindquarter (they must have eaten the rest before we got there) on an Oceanic Society Expeditions trip.

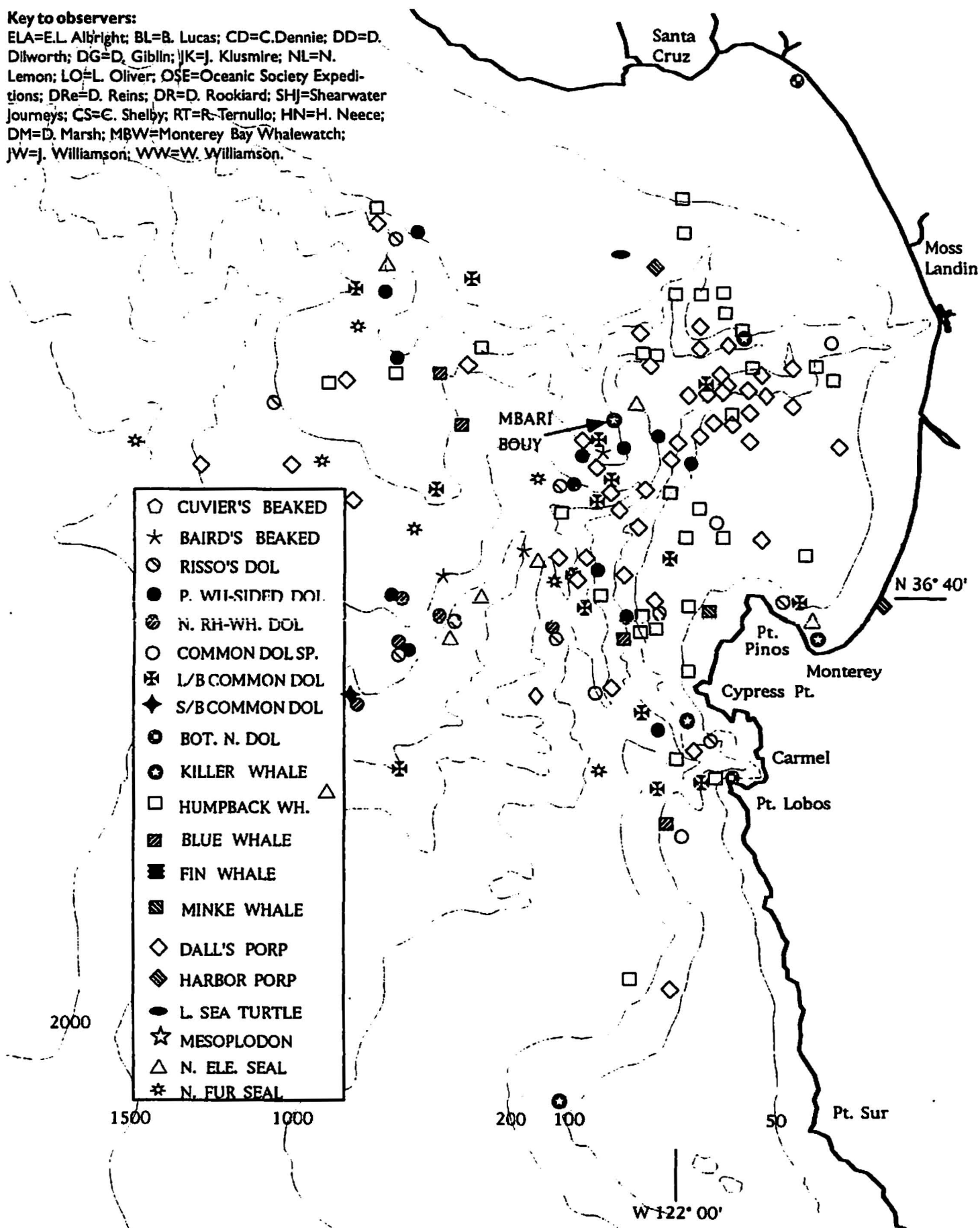
Small cetacean sightings should become more frequent throughout the Davidson portion of the year.

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Bluewhale			
There were fourteen sightings of singles and pairs from Davenport to 11 miles offshore of Yankee Point			
Humpbackwhale			
9/26	1	4 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
9/26	3	3.5 mi. SSW Point Pinos	RT
With 5-6 Dall's porpoise.			
10/3	2	Near Monastery Beach	DR
10/22	1+1	10 mi. SW Cypress Point	MBW
10/24	5	5 mi. SW Cypress Point	OSE
10/25	3	8 mi. SW Cypress Point	OSE
Associated with 20 northern right whale dolphins.			
Fin whale			
10/22	5	12 mi. SW Cypress Point	MBW
10/23	3	12.5 mi. SW Cypress Point	OSE
With one humpback whale.			
10/23	1	7 mi. SW Cypress Point	OSE
Minkwhale			
10/9	1	3.5 mi. W Asilomar	WW
10/14	1	near Yankee Point	LO
10/23	1	0.5 mi. W Point Pinos	NL
Killer whale			
10/3	4-5	East edge Soquel Canyon	WW
10/10	9	2 mi. W Cypress Point	OSE
Killed and ate a California sea lion.			
10/11	6-8	8 mi. S Santa Cruz	WW
Baird's beaked whale			
9/28	2	6 mi. W Point Joe	MBW
Bottlenose dolphin			
10/14	2-3	Carmel Beach	CS
10/17	2+	NW tip of Point Lobos	DD
10/20	21	Rio Del Mar, Santa Cruz Co.	DM
Risso's dolphin			
9/27	40-50	4 mi. SW Point Pinos	RT
Associated with 5 northern right whale dolphins.			
10/4	200	5 mi. W Point Pinos	MBW
With 100 northern right whale dolphins and 200 Pacific white-sided dolphins.			
10/7	50-60	4 mi. W Rocky Point	HN
10/13	20-25	Carmel Bay	BL
10/15	100	12 mi. WNW Point Pinos	SHJ
10/16	350	5 mi. SW Cypress Point	RT
Associated with 10-15 northern right whale dolphins.			
10/22	8-10	10 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
10/23	50	4 mi. SW Point Pinos	OSE

Date	Group size	Location	Observer
Northern right whale dolphin			
10/15	3	6 mi. W Point Pinos	RT
With 12-15 Risso's dolphins.			
Pacific white-sided dolphin			
10/4	40	7.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	MBW
10/11	250	7.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	RT
10/14	110	7.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	RT
10/15	100	2 mi. NW Monterey Harbor	ELA
10/21	200	1 mi. NW MBARI bouy	CD
10/23	200	7 mi. SW Moss Landing	OSE
10/25	5	3.5 mi. N Point Pinos	OSE
An unusual association w/ 1,200 long beaked common dolphins.			
Common dolphin sp.			
10/6	300-400	3 mi. W Granite Creek	LO
10/12	300-400	Carmel Bay	WW
10/15	1000	3.5 mi. NW Point Pinos	DR
10/22	1000	1 mi. W Cypress Point	DG
10/23	1000	3.5 mi. N Point Pinos	HN
Short-beaked common dolphin			
10/9	2500	3 mi. W Cypress Point	OSE
11/16	15	7 mi. SSW Cypress Point	SHJ
Long-beaked common dolphin			
There were twelve observations of up to 2500 individuals from Soquel Canyon to Soberanes Rocks.			
Dall's porpoise			
There were twenty-nine sightings of this porpoise of up to forty in groups of five to ten individuals along canyon edges from Santa Cruz to Point Lobos.			
Harbor porpoise			
9/30	3-4	4.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	SHJ
Northern elephant seal			
10/3	1	0.25 mi. N Monterey Bay Aquarium	OSE
10/3	1	1.25 mi. N Hopkin's Marine Station	OSE
10/5	1	7 mi. NW Moss Landing	MBW
10/11	1	8 mi. SW Moss Landing	RT
10/21	1	6 mi. W Moss Landing	RT
Northern fur seal			
10/5	1	5 mi. SW Cypress Point	MBW
10/5	1	6.5 mi. SW Cypress Point	MBW
10/6	1	9 mi. SW Cypress Point	SHJ
10/6	1	15 mi. SW Cypress Point	SHJ
10/7	1	27 mi. W Point Pinos	SHJ
10/23	1	8 mi. W Point Pinos	OSE
Leatherback sea turtle			
10/3	1	7.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	WW

Key to observers:

ELA=E.L. Albright; BL=B. Lucas; CD=C.Dennie; DD=D. Dilworth; DG=D. Giblin; JK=J. Klusmire; NL=N. Lemon; LO=L. Oliver; OSE=Oceanic Society Expeditions; DRe=D. Reins; DR=D. Rookard; SHJ=Shearwater Journeys; CS=C. Shelby; RT=R. Ternullo; HN=H. Neece; DM=D. Marsh; MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch; JW=J. Williamson; WW=W. Williamson.



ELECTIONS at November meeting for
1996 Slate of ACS/Monterey Bay Officers
 Plan to attend the November meeting to vote on
 your 1996 ACS/Monterey Bay chapter officers.
 The list below includes individuals nominated by
 our executive committee. If you think you might
 like to become a member of the executive board of
 this active and dynamic local organization, please
 contact Jo Guerrero at 633-2956 for more infor-
 mation and attend our meeting on November 30th.

President: Richard Ternullo

Past President: Jo Guerrero

Vice-President: _____

Treasurer: Scott Mac Donald

Membership Secretary: _____

Recording Secretary: _____

Newsletter Editor: Maura Leos

Mailing: Barbara Oliver

Special Events Coordinator: Debbie Ternullo

Speaker Chair: Alan Baldridge

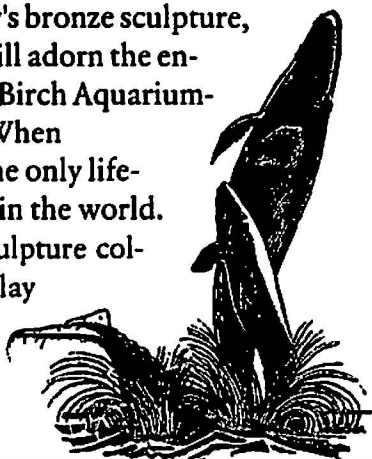
Beachwatch: Esta Lee Albright

Randy Puckett's Sculptures on Display at the Monterey Vineyard

The Monterey Vineyard in Gonzales is currently
 hosting an exhibition of world famous cetacean
 sculptor Randy Puckett's spectacular collection.
 The exhibit is open to the public and free of
 charge. A portion of all proceeds from sales will
 benefit the ACS/Monterey Chapter and other local
 charities.

The Monterey Vineyard is also a proud
 sponsor of the much anticipated dedication in
 March 1996 of Randy's bronze sculpture,
The Legacy, which will adorn the en-
 trance of the Stephen Birch Aquarium-
 Museum in La Jolla. When
 completed it will be the only life-
 size bronze of whales in the world.

Randy Puckett's sculpture col-
 lection will be on display
 until December 10,
 1995 at the
 Monterey Vineyard
 in Gonzales.



Oceanic Society Sponsors Cetacean Studies in 1996

MONTEREY BAY

Biodiversity Study

Learn underwater research techniques by assisting
 marine biologists with the cataloging of Monterey
 Bay subtidal marine life. Research will be con-
 ducted from a 30-foot dive boat. Expect to average
 six hours daily on the bay. Divers must register for
 two days of boat diving, one day of beach diving,
 and participate in a pre-trip briefing before the
 first dive.

RESEARCHER: Nicole Crane

DATES: July 25-28

August 15-18

August 29-September 1

September 26-29

October 3-6

COST: \$280

LIMIT: 8 Participants

MONTEREY BAY

Dolphin & Whale Research

Participate in an ongoing research project to study
 Pacific white-sided dolphins in Monterey Bay. Col-
 lect data under the guidance of our researcher
 aboard our private 55-foot motor vessel. Opportu-
 nistically, we will also photo-identify individual
 blue and humpback whales. Headquarters are at a
 comfortable lodge. Research activities are vessel-
 based, and we can expect to average eight hours
 daily at sea on the bay.

RESEARCHER: Nancy Black

DATES: September 22-28

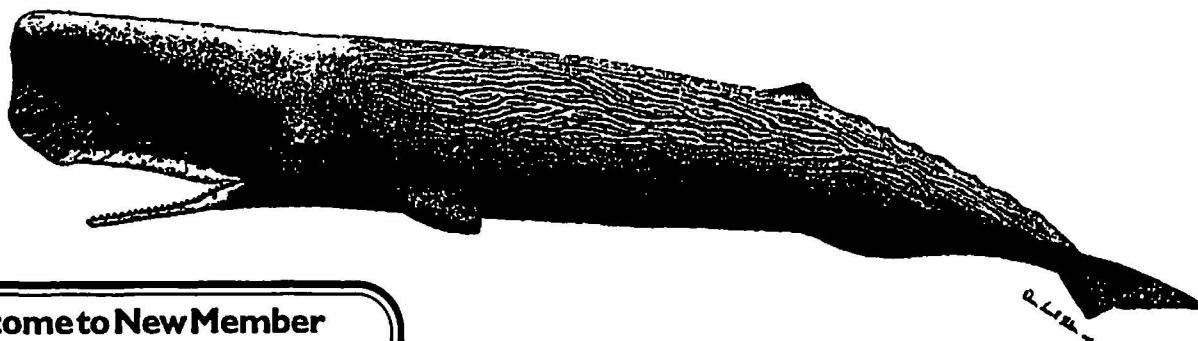
October 6-12

COST: \$990

LIMIT: 14 Participants

For more information about these and other re-
 search expeditions, contact:

Oceanic Society Expeditions
 Fort Mason Center, Building E
 San Francisco, CA 94123
 (800) 326-7491



Welcome to New Member

The ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter is pleased to welcome our new member Stephanie Merritt of West Chester, Ohio.

Don't miss our Annual ACS Before-Christmas Sale at our November meeting with 10% off to members!

Soundings Now Available by Subscription

Nonmembers of ACS may now subscribe to this newsletter for \$15 for 12 issues. Fill out the form below and send it with your check.

I wish to subscribe to SOUNDINGS, the newsletter of ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter

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Monterey Bay Chapter's Board Members for 1995

President	Jo Guerrero	280 Walker Valley Rd.	Castroville 95012	633-2956
Vice President and Publicity Chairperson	Richard Ternullo	1013 Hillside Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-4281
Recording Secretary	Deborah Oglesby	314 Aachen Rd.	Seaside 93955	394-1878
Treasurer	Scott MacDonald	441 Semple Ave.	Aptos 95003	688-2934
Membership Secretary	Kathy Whittaker	514 Beaumont Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-2274
Past President	Diane Glim	1301 Buena Vista Avenue	Pacific Grove 93950	646-8743
Program Chairperson	Alan Baldrige	1132 Seaview Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	372-3809
Newsletter Editor	Carrie Wilson	1054 Jewell Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	375-6486
Newsletter Mailing	Marian LaRosa	P.O. Box 105	Monterey 93942	375-2221
Beachwatch Coordinator	Esta Lee Albright	200 Dunecrest, #2	Monterey 93940	375-1658
Special Events Coordinator	Debbie Ternullo	1013 Hillside Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-4281

Scientific Advisory Committee

Alan Baldrige	1132 Seaview Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	372-3809
Tom Kieckhefer	9433 Holly Hill Dr.	Salinas 93907	663-3813
Jerry Loomis	Route 1, Box 62	Carmel 93923	625-2120
Jud Vandevere	93 Via Ventura	Monterey 93940	372-6001
Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove 93950	373-7676 (h), 647-4864 (w)
Tom Williams	23810 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel 93923	375-5570

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Type of Membership, Annual Dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign	\$45
		<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapter: #24 Monterey

Check _____ Master Card _____ Visa _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Return to: Membership Secretary, ACS Monterey Bay Chapter,
514 Beaumont Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

SOUNDINGS

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
P.O. BOX HE
PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950

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